



KAIROS EARTH
Church of the Woods

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*Welcome,
blessed people!*

Let us gather round that we may be transformed through Christ — in the woods, in communion, and in divine space and time.

The Word

We begin with readings, psalm, and song, followed by 20-30 minutes of silent contemplation in the forest — itself a Word of God. We walk, sit, look, listen... to encounter and engage with the sacred mysteries of death, love, and life.

We return to share forest offerings, observations, questions, and reflections. Please bring a token from the woods, a story, reflection, poem, or song! Take part in any or all parts of the service, as feels right for you.

After our shared prayers, we acknowledge our own complicity in the world's ills.

Prayer for Restoration

(Leader) Recognizing that we all have a part in hurts done to each other and to the whole creation, we acknowledge our own failings, ask forgiveness, and pray for a new start:

(Together) Fount of all mercy, we acknowledge that we have strayed from your way. We ask that you restore us when we lose the way of oneness with you and your creation. Be with us as we wander in that lonely wilderness, strengthen us as we return, renew us in the awareness of your ever-present love, and return us to your ways of love, compassion, and service. *(Priest) By the power of the one great love, our errors are forgiven. May you be made whole and brought anew into the peace of God. † Amen.*

The Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Source.

Let us give thanks to our Creator,
God.

It is right to give God thanks

and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

(Together) From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; rock, fire, and every living thing.

You made us creators in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, wandered far away, and used your gifts for evil. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in your light and the fullness of your love.

So this day we join with all the Earth and heavens in a chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God,
Source of light and life.**

**Earth and the heavens are filled
with your love.**

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(Leader) Holy of Holies, remembering our oneness with all that exists and all that has life, it is a joyful thing to be in your presence with each other, with this land, and with all creation.

(Together) It is a miracle that we and this whole world are here, made by the Light of all lights, formed from stars that lived, died, and poured forth the elements — hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, iron, gold, and more. Born of the sea and walking on earth, we are miracles, shaped by the forces of life, kin with all beings.

This meal of abundance we are about to share is also a miracle — a gift of earth, water, wind, and fire, and of seeds buried in the earth and cracked open. This bread and this wine, with their many meanings, are gifts of life to the living.

(Leader) For followers of Jesus, these

gifts assume particular meaning. Living among us, Jesus went alone upon the mountain to pray. He loved us, broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world into the heart of God — but we have not heeded his call to walk in love.

When the time came to complete the offering of his life upon the cross, Jesus was eating supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, O God, broke it, offered it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, offered to heal you and the whole world. Whenever you eat it, remember this.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, offered it to his friends, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new covenant – a promise of eternal love poured out for you and for all beings. Whenever you drink it, remember this.”

(Together) Now gathered at your table, remembering that we are one with you and with all creation,

we offer to you from your own Earth these gifts of the land, this bread and wine, and our own bodies — our own living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Fill us with your Breath, O God, opening our eyes and renewing us in your love.

Send your Spirit over this land and over the whole Earth, making everything a new creation.

In the fullness of time bring us, with this good Earth and with all your creatures from every people and tribe and faith and language and nation and species, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

(Leader) Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all light and life and love are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Now together we pray:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker,
Life-giver, Pain-bearer,**

**Source of all that is
and ever shall be,
Your name be sung with joy!
Your peace, your justice, your
mercy come on earth.
With the food we need
for today, feed us.
For the hurt we cause, forgive us.
As we lose the way, restore us.
When we are enslaved
by evil, transform us,
For you are the way, and the truth,
and the life, now and for ever.
Amen.**

*The priest breaks the bread, saying:
(Alleluia!) Behold what we are!
May we become what we receive.*

The practice at Church of the Woods is to offer the first morsel of sacred bread back to God's holy ground.

Please taste and eat this sacred food in whichever ways are meaningful to you: as holy fruits of the soil and stars, as a remembrance of Jesus sharing a meal with his friends, as the real presence of Christ. If you wish to pass, please do so with our blessing.

Post-communion Prayer (together)
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the

cup of love. You have reunited us with Christ, with the Earth, and with one another. Now, send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your love and continue forever in the risen life of Christ.

Blessing

God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be upon you,
The Spirit's outpouring be within you and amongst you,
This day and always. **Amen.**

Going Forth

Offerings Church of the Woods operates on free-will offerings from our friends. We are grateful for any gift you make. Thank you!

Information Church of the Woods is a program of **Kairos Earth**. Visit us online at kairosearth.org. You can subscribe to our newsletter on our website or leave your name and email.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and bodies and minds in the knowledge and love of God & all the Earth!