

# Readers Theater – Creation Care

*Based on Genesis 1 and 2, Psalms 24, 8 and 104, Hosea 4, Romans 8, Revelation 21 and 22*

*All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24)*

**Voice 1:** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

**Voice 2:** Then God said, "Let there be light and sky, waters and dry land, vegetation and fruit trees, sun and moon, birds and living creatures of every kind."

**Voice 3:** And God saw that it was good.

**Voice 4:** Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish and birds and cattle and wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

**Voice 2:** Let them have dominion?

**Voice 3:** Dominion? – subdue, reign over, be its master.

**Voice 1:** Dominion? – be responsible for, take care of, ensure its prosperity and good future

**Voice 4:** So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God they were created;

**Voice 2:** God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1)

**Voice 4:** The LORD God took the person and put them in the garden of Eden to tend it and keep it. (Genesis 2)

**Voice 3:** To tend – To work and serve, to till and cultivate

**Voice 1:** To keep – To exercise great care over, to guard and to watch over. To return to its owner in as good or better condition than when received.

*All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.*

**Voice 4:** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

**Voice 1:** Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hand? (Psalm 8)

**Voice 2:** Again Dominion. Subdue or take care of? Reign over or ensure its prosperity and good future?

**Voice 3:** You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You make springs gush forth in the valleys, giving drink to every wild animal. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart. You made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (Psalm 104)

*All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.*

**Voice 1:** Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel; for the LORD has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land. Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. (Hosea 4)

**Voice 4:** I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now. (Romans 8)

*All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.*

**Voice 2:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

**Voice 3:** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 21, 22)

*All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.*

Mark Diller Harder (Canada), 2019.

[Creative Commons: Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)