

2009 Environmental Lenten Worship Resource

Easter Day: Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

April 12, 2009

Let all the Earth be glad!

Easter Day is, of course, the culmination of our Lenten journey and a key point of both our church year and our lives as God's people, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with joyous songs of praise and alleluias. It is a day filled with flowers and special hymns, readings, and liturgical practices fitting to this high day of celebration.

What place is there for earthkeeping or celebrating creation? There are likely many "places" – be creative! It should be relatively easy to "weave in" a continuation of the Lenten themes of "creation waiting with eager longing" and "joining the hymn of all creation" somewhere!

After all, the care of creation is meant to be part and parcel of our lives and witness as followers of Christ. It need not take center stage to yet remain a part of all we do.

It may be appropriate to distribute seeds or small potted plants, as congregants leave worship. Certainly, it would be good to incorporate some prayer petitions that include creation – both its pains and its joys. Perhaps an invitation to meet and form an earthkeeping team is placed in the bulletin this day, or a special bulletin insert prepared (use recycled paper!).

Our celebration of the Risen Christ brings us the joy and promise of the redemption and renewal of our lives and of all life; all of Earth and its members can celebrate that.

WE are renewed and our spirits are renewed; and in that "greening" refreshment of our spirits, we are also sent forth as ambassadors of Christ's healing, compassionate, reconciling love, to help bring about the greening of God's world. If not now, when?

Amen! May it be so.