

Prayers for the Gulf during the Oil Spill Crisis

As the catastrophic oil accident in the Gulf continues, O God, for the wonders of technology, we give you thanks. For the limits of technology we pray for awareness. For the arrogance of technology, when it harms your Creation, we pray for humility. For the victims of this technology, we pray for forgiveness. For the recklessness which prevents careful preparation for accident, we pray with repentance and for enlightenment. And for our capacity to learn from this huge mistake and to minister compassionately as a society to those harmed by it, we give you thanks. Amen.

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Also: the litany and confession from the National Council of Churches' EcoJustice program.

<http://www.nccecojustice.org/downloads/Gulf%20Spill%20Resource%20May%202010.pdf>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, author of life, source of all meaning, you made a universe of infinite complexity and beauty and entrusted us humans with the care of a tiny jewel called Earth.

With the passing of time we came to believe we were owners, not fellow creature dwellers, of this bountiful planet and its extravagant web of life. We have used Gods creation without regard for the impact our rapacity had on the other creatures with whom we share our earthly home. We have acted with craven disregard for complex ecosystems we barely understand. Our self-deception has led us to assume we have the capacity to manage environments we exploit to sustain lifestyles that defy the intrinsic interdependence of all life. Now we face the consequences of our idolatry. We thought we were gods; but our recklessness has brought us to our knees, to ask for your mercy and forgiveness for the chaos we have brought about. We pray for the oceans and all the creatures that dwell in it. We pray for the forests and the abundance of life they nurture. We pray for the very air we breathe, now laden with the toxic gases we produce. We pray for our children whose earthly home we have so imperiled. Loving God, have mercy on us, grant us forgiveness and the strength to make amends.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

There are no sins so great that the mercy of God cannot forgive. Go with Gods grace to make amends. Embrace lifestyles that will help restore balance and harmony to our Earthly home. Care for those whose environments have been destroyed by our actions and inactions. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, we come to you today with heavy and humbled hearts. We ask that your healing, comforting and strengthening presence be with all those affected by this unfolding tragedy:

For workers injured, missing and presumed dead from the explosion on the rig and for their families and friends,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For people working tirelessly to contain the spill and protect fragile ecosystems and communities from its toxic impacts,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For individuals and communities whose livelihoods depend upon the Gulf of Mexico,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For your good Creation from the smallest of sea creatures to the birds of the air - and all your magnificent handiwork at risk of exposure from our human errors,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For wisdom to understand our dependence on You and strength that we might walk humbly in the path of justice and right-relationships with all Your Creation,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers