



## Prayer of Thankfulness

Creator God,

We marvel at all the works of your hand, yet we forget to give you thanks. Filled with love and power, you brought all things into existence. From the waters and sky to the vegetation and all living creatures, thank you for the beauty you bring. And it is indeed beautiful! From sand-swept beaches to mountains glazed in snow to fields that dance with prairie grass, we stand in complete and utter awe. With the smell of sweet honeysuckle, the sound of babbling brooks, and the sunrises and sunsets that paint the horizon, we can't help but pause. We can't help but stop and listen. We can't help but breathe a little more deeply as your peace envelops us. Constellations that speckle the night sky and massive trees whose roots grip deeply into the rich soil remind us of how small we are. Sometimes your creation is so vast, so intricate, that we are unable to fully comprehend the scope of your creation. All of this, the natural beauty that lies right outside our window, is a reminder of your creative and loving presence.

But even amid all these wonders, creation exists for more than the pleasure of human eyes. For in your wisdom, you created every creature, every plant, every body of water, and every moon with a purpose. Each of us is a participatory member in the community you created. Thank you for inviting us, as humans, to join the biodiversity of your creation. For the life you breathed into our very lungs, we give you thanks. Help us remember that humans are not separate from this community of creation but deeply connected to it. Teach us to live alongside all that you have made, cultivating, nourishing, and sustaining life so that all creation may flourish together, shaped and sustained by your divine hand.

Through the creation of all things, you show us that you want to be in relationship with us. Forgive us for the ways we have distanced ourselves from you. Forgive us for the ways we have distanced ourselves from the rest of your creation, living as if we are superior to everything else that you so thoughtfully brought forth. Forgive us for the ways we have failed to participate in the flourishing of your creation, ignoring the ways it cries out for care and restoration.

Thank you for inviting us to participate in your ongoing works of creation, and may we continue to live in beloved community not only with our human neighbors but with the trees, the wind, and every single creature too. May we love what and who you love and continue to care for all that your divine hand has made.

Amen.

**Rev. Lauren Tucker**