Liturgy, prayers and blessings (non-Eucharistic)

Here are some useful Calls to Worship, Collects and Blessings. Where the source is known it is attributed. We’d be grateful for any feedback so we can credit non-attributed material.

There are also two Psalms (104 and 148) a Eucharistic Prayer, and suggestions for Hymns and Worship Songs on separate Operation Noah Resource sheets

Timing
Some churches focus on certain doctrines at particular times of year, others don’t. Lent is traditionally a time for penitence, while Advent looks to both the coming of Christ and the end times. Worship patterns and liturgy will vary accordingly. So try to make use of the seasonal opportunities that will be available in certain churches.

Creation Season
The Third European Ecumenical Assembly (2007) of Europe’s Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant Churches recommended ‘that the period from 1 September to 4 October be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change’. Creation Season has not been very widely or consistently supported, but it is still an opportunity to encourage churches to focus their thinking for more than a single event, and this will improve the learning and other outcomes. Do suggest that churches use this opportunity. There are ON Creation Time resources at http://www.operationnoah.org/creationtime. There is also Environment Sunday, the first Sunday of June.

Links to other resources
Worship materials are quite easy to find online, but it is harder to work out exactly what you want. There are some excellent resources available as follows

- Operation Noah has general materials at http://www.operationnoah.org/taxonomy/term/23
- Eco-Congregation is a comprehensive approach to greening your church community and has a whole module on worship in various versions with abundant materials: http://ew.ecocongregation.org/resources/module2
**Calls to Worship**

Leader We light a candle to God, the Creator,
All who lit the light in the darkness
and breathed life into the creation.

_A candle is lit._

Leader We light a candle to Jesus Christ,
All the light of the world,
our hope and rescue.

_A candle is lit._

Leader We light a candle to the Holy Spirit,
All who sets our faith on fire
and gives us courage to follow the truth.

_A candle is lit._

Leader The heavens bear witness to your wonder:
All Our lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

_Or_

Leader O God, you summon the day to dawn
You teach the morning to waken the earth
All Great is your name, great is your love

Leader For you the valleys shall sing for joy
And your people shall praise you in every age and time
All Great is your name, great is your love

Leader For you the powerful shall bow down
The poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy
All Great is your name, great is your love

Leader Your love and mercy shall last forever
Fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise
All Great is your faithfulness, O Lord of love_¹_

_Or_

Leader We are the people of God, the Creator,
All Created in the image of God.

Leader We are the people of God, the Redeemer,
All Reconciled in Jesus Christ.

Leader We are the people of God, the giver of life,
All Open to the life-giving Spirit.

Leader Praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth,
All You give us food of the earth and water of the well.

Leader Praise to you, Jesus Christ who walked this earth,
All You have revealed God’s love for the world.

Leader Praise to you, Holy Spirit, giver of Life,
All You awaken our song of praise.

_¹_Iona Community, adapted
Collects

Father God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth,
For the diversity of land and sea,
For the resources of the world and the food it provides.
Give us the will to cherish this planet,
And to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.
God of life, hear our prayer, Amen.

Or

Almighty God, you have called us to keep and tend the garden of your creation,
Give us wisdom and reverence for all that shares this planet with us
And whose lives make possible our own.
Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life
And join with us in giving you praise,
Amen.

Blessings

Christ, by whom and for whom all things were made,
Give us grace to tread gently in his world,
And strengthen you with his Spirit,
To serve him in the garden of his creation.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Or

The love of the faithful Creator
The peace of the wounded Healer
The joy of the challenging Spirit
The hope of the Three in One
Surround and encourage you
Today, tonight and forever²

Or

Blessing and laughter and loving be yours
the love of a great God
who names you and holds you
while the earth turns and the flowers grow
this day,
this night,
this moment
and forever³

An Uncomfortable Blessing

May the Spirit bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships
so that you will live deep in your heart.

May the Spirit bless you with anger
at injustice and oppression, the exploitation of people and earth
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May the Spirit bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them.

May the Spirit bless you with foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world
so that you will do the things which others say cannot be done.\(^4\)

Loving Father, help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change our world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it
To undertake the journey without understanding the destination.\(^5\)

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4. Mark Wilcox. Copyright © 2004 (St Aidan Press, Holy Island).