**A Prayer for the Trees**

Creator of life,

we give you thanks

for the trees that have

opened their arms to us,

protected us,

nourished and sheltered us,

shared with us their fruit,

and been beautiful in our eyes.

*here we pause to remember specific trees that we are grateful for*

Creator who mourns,

we lament those trees that are no more:

trees that we climbed

and walked beneath,

trees sacrificed for our dwellings

our roads

our food

our wants.

*here we pause to remember specific trees that we mourn, and our complicity in their loss*

Creator of new life,

we pray that you will once again

draw us into the story of the trees,

Shape us into a people who protect

and plant,

that forests might spring up

where we have trod.

We pray in hope of that day

when the tree of life

will nourish us with fruit

in all seasons,

and grant healing

for all creatures of the earth.

Amen.

© 2021 Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care, Diocese of Toronto.

Text by Sylvia Keesmaat.