ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR
THE SEASON OF CREATION

You will find some liturgical elements that could be integrated in the liturgy of the day:

(For example: Begin your service by lighting a candle, and setting the space with other natural items that represent the biodiversity of your local environment.)

Opening prayer
We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

Psalm 104

One: Bless the Lord, O my Soul!

Many: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures.

One: You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild beasts quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

Many: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures.

One: From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the Earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the Earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Many: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures.

One: The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that God planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the conies.

Many: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures.

One: You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

Many: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures.

One: when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

Many: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures.
Prayer of Confession

One: We praise you God, for the diversity of your creation. With the psalmist we are amazed at the manifold diversity of your work. The Earth is full of your creatures and in your holy wisdom you have made them all. But in our self-centeredness, we have neglected to serve our fellow creatures. We have polluted the land and the waters, destroying delicate habitats and accelerating the loss of your precious species. We know that creation waits with eager longing in the hope of being set free from this bondage to our decay (Romans 8:19-22). And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,

Many: We confess our overuse of transportation,

One: the need for speed overriding the healing of the Earth’s fever.

Many: We confess our hyper-consumption of food and energy,

One: producing meat and electrons on demand, but too often exhausting and poisoning the backyards of the poorest.

Many: We confess our soaps, our cosmetics, our synthetic clothes,

One: ignoring that their unseen, plastic microbeads run into our streams and oceans, now residing in fish, and probably in some of us.

Many: We confess our junk, the piles of what we throw away,

One: the sewage smelling of our lack of concern.

Many: We confess our mind-set,

One: too often concentrating on our ability to buy rather than asking what we really need, what our world needs.

Many: We confess our unfaithfulness, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind,

One: not loving our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves,

Many: not caring for the creation you have given us as a gift.

One: Turn us from our cursed practices

Many: to life that is really living, giving ourselves away, following Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

One: The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

Many: Amen

(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)

Profession of faith

One: We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

Many: In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

One: We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

Many: In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.

One: We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

Many: In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

One: We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

Many: In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

(Per Harling)
Offering
(For example: you may want to showcase local plants, animals, or other materials from your area as a way offer thanks for the biodiversity of your area and to raise awareness of the protection your local habitats need.

Offertory Prayer

One: We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. “All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Many: Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Many: Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Many: Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.”

Many: Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

(adapted from A prayer for the Earth, Pope Francis, Laudato Si)

Benediction

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God’s glory in creation.

Text from the celebration guide of the Season of Creation 2019:
https://seasonofcreation.org/guide/