

We've got the whole world...
A litany on the challenge of global warming
By David Radcliff

Leader one: Awaken, people, to this new day!

All: Let us rise from our slumber—eyes and ears open, senses alert—waiting for some word from our Lord.

Leader two: Our Lord speaks—from the mountain to the sea, things growing and things flowing, the smallest creature to the largest beast—our Lord speaks.

All: Blessed are the feet upon the mountains of the Lord's messengers. What tidings do they bring...?

Leader one: Not tidings of comfort and joy, but of discomfort and trouble; not words of peace and assurance, but conflict and uncertainty.

Leader two: The earth and its people stand in the shadow of a storm—an on-coming trial born of fire, fueled by gluttony and propelled by apathy.

All: Is this the feared Day of the Lord—the coming judgment of the quick and the dead?

Leader two: Would that it were—no, this peril is not of God's making, but of ours; not of Divine conduct, but of human misconduct.

Leader one: Yes, by our driving and flying, our heating and eating, our endless appetite for crude and for coal, we have brought changes to God's earth that will bring suffering to many.

Leader two: From ocean depth to highest tree, from mountaintop to coral reef, none escapes...nor do we...

Leader one: Less grain in the field and water in the stream, more suffering from heat and from spreading disease.

Leader two: And the worst will come not upon us and our time, but in days yet to come—and upon the young and yet born.

Leader one: Can the future once bright have its luster restored? With the world in our hands—will wisdom prevail?

All: Only by turning our hearts to the Lord, only by opening our ears to God's call, only by finding compassion within, for all living things and those yet to be born.

Leader one: May it be so—and may God do what God often does: use our waiting hearts and willing hands for the blessing of many...

Leader two: ...that God's reign may come down—on earth, as it is in heaven—and all then live in abundance and peace.