

PRAYER CANDLE SERVICE: **WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN**

Candles are lit during the reading, then extinguished during the remembrances.

Reader 1: The First Story of Creation

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let there be light,"

Reader 1: and there was light.

God saw how good it was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". Thus evening came and morning followed - the first day.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other."

Reader 1: And so it happened.

The water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth", and the basin of the water God called "the sea". God saw how good it was.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let the earth bring forth vegetation:

every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it."

Reader 1: And so it happened.

The earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came and morning followed - the third day.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky,
to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and
the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light
upon the earth."

Reader 1: And so it happened.

God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the
lesser one to govern the night; and God made the stars. God set them in
the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and
the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how
good it was. Evening came, and morning followed - the fourth day.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the
earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky."

Reader 1: "And so it happened:

God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures
with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how
good it was, and God blessed them, saying,

(Light one candle)

Reader 2: Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas;
and let the birds multiply on the earth."

Reader 1: Evening came and morning followed - the fifth day.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:
cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds."

Reader 1: And so it happened:

God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of
creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was.

Then God said, *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

Reader 1: God created man in his image;

in the divine image he created him; male and female God created them.

God blessed them, saying: *(Light one candle)*

Reader 2: Be fertile and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth."

Reader 1: God also said,

(Light one candle)

Reader 2: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth

and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food: and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food."

Reader 1: And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made and he

found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed - the sixth day.

The word of the Lord.

(Light one candle)

Reader 2: Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.

Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

(Light the last candle)

REMEMBRANCES

We come together this afternoon to pray for an end to abortion. Since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in our country, there have been over 35 million unborn American babies killed, 1,600,000 each year, 4,500 a day. The lighted candles represent God deliberately willing to create these babies.

Yes, they were created by God just as we were! God blessed them with many gifts and talents and it pleased God to see these lovely young creations. But their lives were cut short by abortion. We remember them now as we extinguish the candles.

Reader 1: We remember those who would have been our classmates.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 2: We remember those who would have been loving fathers and mothers.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 1: We remember those who would have served God as priests and sisters.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 2: We remember those who might have been scientists discovering a cure for cancer.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 1: We remember those who would have been good teachers.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 2: We remember those who would have been journalists and authors.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 1: We remember those who would have worked among the poor.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 2: We remember those who would have tilled the soil to grow food for us.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 1: We remember those who would have been doctors and nurses caring for the sick.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 2: We remember those who would have brightened our lives with music, dance, and art.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 1: We remember those who would have been great athletes.

(Blow out one candle)

Reader 2: We remember those who would have given love and joy to others.

(Blow out final candle)