

Arbor Day Invocation, Della Davidson School April 30, 2010

The Reverend Laura F. Gettys, St. Peter's Episcopal Church

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now." Chinese Proverb

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into thoughtful contemplation and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders.

The creation entrusted to us is beautiful and fragile.

Help us to discover new beauty in creation everyday: in the sunrise and the sunset, the birds and other woolly and scaly critters and especially in the gift of your big and small, leafy and furry, wondrous trees.

For trees are indeed gifts from above. They give us branches to climb high in the sky and shade us with cool in the hot summer days. Their branches give home to nests of all manner of winged friends. Trees clean our air and make it fresh and new again. And trees lean backwards and forwards, waving their branches at us when the wind blows, reminding us of our place in the world.

Let us this day, renew our promise of protecting our world and creation that we have been entrusted. May this tree we plant as a school community today be a symbol of our partnership, promise, and possibility of a world which listens to the earth and treads carefully with our finite resources. Each of us, adult and child alike, have responsibility. Like the Lorax in Dr. Seuss, 'We speak for the trees!'

So on this day, we give deep thanks for the fecundity and wonder of this world, And with this thanksgiving, may we also keep faithful to this gathering. May our own roots grow deep and firm and our arms stretch wide as the seeds of care, compassion and connection are planted deep within ourselves, with You, and especially with our earth, our fragile island home. Now and forever, ***Amen.***