

# SEASON OF CREATION

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**Being a  
Multicultural  
Church**



# China

from Rev Sandy Brodine



**Photo:**  
Cruising on the Li River, Guilin, China.  
*Rev Sandy Brodine, 2008*





**"Alongside the river, we see a juxtaposition between the beauty of nature and the human need to work."**

**The painting of the mountains is a historically timeless one which is reminiscent of a thousand mountains in mist paintings.**

**The word for Scenery in Chinese is "山水" (Shan shui) which literally means "mountains and water." This is the quintessential Chinese landscape image.**

**The colour is also particularly Chinese, and a good reflection on the word "青", a landscape colour that can in various ways mean blue, green, and black."**



**Loving Father, Mother God,**

**We thank you for the beauty of the world you have created.**

**For the millennia in which people and river have lived together in harmony.**

**For the relationship between landscape and fauna, fishers and their  
cormorants, bird and nature.**

**For the inspiration such natural beauty gives artists and musicians,  
calligraphers and story tellers.**

**We know in recent decades we have done great damage to our natural  
surroundings, and we pray that with your promptings we will learn to care  
much more for the creation you placed us in, and made us part of, helping us  
to once again restore the balance between nature and humankind.**

**May it be so, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Photo:**  
Rice Terrace in Ubud  
*Apwee Ting*



# Indonesia

from Rev Dr Apwee Ting

**Ubud is located in the uplands of Bali between rice fields and forest areas flanked by ravines with rivers, which makes this location very beautiful. Apart from its natural landscape, Ubud is also famous for Balinese art and culture and is becoming more developed each year. For the people of Ubud, daily life cannot be separated from the elements of religion, art, culture and nature.**



**Ciptaan mengkomunikasikan  
kasih, harapan dan kemurahan hati Sang Pencipta  
Ciptaan berbisik melalui sungai, gunung dan laut  
Ciptaan berbicara melalui angin, hujan dan badai  
Ciptaan bernyanyi melalui kehidupan tanah, air dan udara**

**Dengarkanlah suara ciptaan  
Suara yang membawa keheningan, ketentraman dan  
kedamaian  
Suara yang mengubah keserakahan menjadi kepedulian  
Suara yang menghilangkan kemunafikan dan kekerasan  
Suara yang menuntun kita kepada kebersamaan  
Suara yang menjadi pusat kesadaran kita**

**Kami bersyukur ya Tuhan  
Buat suara ciptaan yang kami dengar  
Kami bersyukur  
Buat suara ciptaan yang menuntun kami  
Menjadi manusia yang lebih baik**

**Amin.**



**Creation communicates  
the love, hope and generosity of the Creator  
Creation whispers through rivers, mountains and seas  
Creation speaks through wind, rain and storm  
Creation sings through the life of land, water and air**

**Listen to the voice of creation  
The voice that brings silence, serenity and peace  
The voice that turns greed into love  
The voice that dispels hypocrisy and violence  
The voice that leads us to togetherness  
The voice that is the center of our consciousness**

**We thank God  
for the voice of creation  
We listen, we are grateful  
for the voice of creation that guides us  
to become a better human being. Amen.**

**Photo:**  
Niue Island  
*Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama*



**The picture is from Niue Island, capturing the character of the place called “The Rock of Polynesia” – the smallest island nation in the world but the largest coral island. Niue’s natural unspoiled beauty is threatened by climate change and imported materials like plastic.**

**Niue**

from Rev Dr Matagi Jessop Vilitama



**Kua Fakatino e Ogo he Atua  
Ne vali he lagi e mana  
Kua talahau he matagi e tala  
Kua lologo e tau manu mo e felele fiafia  
Kua fakatino e ogo he Atua.  
Ne koukou e tau motu he moana  
Kua ta palau e tau peau tuga e nafa  
Kua kakau e tau ika mo e koli mo e nava  
Kua fakatino e ogo he Atua.  
Lo-lo-lologo a, Ha-haleluia  
Kia fakaheke atu e lalolagi  
Kua fakatino e ogo he Atua.  
Ne vagahau e tau akau mo e tau maka  
Kua tugi poa mo e ahua e tau mouga  
Ti tafepoi e fanau ke he Tama he Atua  
Kua fakatino e ogo he Atua.  
Ma tagata na e, ala mai  
Ke kitia e ogo kua tino mai  
Ti leveki e haau a kaina fuluola  
Kua fakatino e ogo he Atua.  
Kua fakatino e Loko he Atua  
Kua nofo fakalataha mo tau tagata  
Kua ui a tautolu ke tutaki kia ia  
Ke fakatino e ogo he Atua. Kitukituea**

**The heavens display God's mystery  
The wind whispers the Good News  
And the birds fly singing songs of praise  
God's voice is revealed.  
The islands bath in the Ocean's waters  
The waves beat like drums in rhythm  
And the fishes dance in praise  
God's voice is revealed.  
Sing Hallelujah...  
Let all the earth worship  
For God's voice is revealed.  
The plants and stones speak  
And mountains offer their burnt offering  
The children ran to Jesus  
God's voice is revealed.  
O human, awake from your slumber  
And see God's beauty embodied  
Look after the household  
Gods voice is revealed.  
God's Word became flesh  
and dwelled among us  
We are called to follow his way  
To reveal God's voice. Amen**



# Armenia

from Levon Kardashian

**This painting depicts the Milky Way in the sky and the land of ancient Armenia, with Mount Ararat in the back and the other mountains of Armenia in front.**





**"Every Armenian villager from childhood knows the name of the Milky Way. It can be translated as "the way of a man who had stolen the straw" or the "straw thief's way."**

**The old Armenian legend recorded by Movses Khorenatsi tells the story of Vahagn who, on a very cold winter night, contrived to steel some straw from the Assyrian king Barsham and brought it to Armenia.**

**According to this legend part of the straw fell on the way back and became the Milky Way."**



Our sky adorned with stars  
gives hope to my soul  
the mountains and the valleys dressed in light  
give joy to my heart  
the tree and the flower in the field  
to the Lord of Armenia, the source of fragrance  
they invite all the people  
to worship our Father in heaven.

Holy, Holy, Holy are you  
Lord almighty  
The heavens and the Earth  
are filled with your glory  
Holy, Holy, Holy are you  
Lord almighty  
The heavens and the Earth  
are filled with your glory.

Երկինքը մեր աստղազարդ  
կը յուսարդէ իմ հոգին.  
Սարերն ձորերն լուսազարդ  
հրճուանք կու տան իմ սրտին  
Ծառն ու ծաղիկ այս մարմանդ  
խնկատու Հայոց Տէրին  
Կը հրաւիրեն ամէն մարդ  
Պաշտելու Հայրն երկնային  
Սուրբ ես, Սուրբ ես, Տէր զօրութեան  
Երկինք երկիր փառքովդ լի  
Սուրբ ես, Սուրբ ես, Տէր զօրութեան  
Երկինք երկիր փառքովդ լի



# **Being a Multicultural Church**

**[uniting.church/beingamulticulturalchurch](http://uniting.church/beingamulticulturalchurch)**