

The Season of Creation takes place between the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1st and the Feast of St. Francis October 4th. Thousands of Christians will be coming together around the world to pray and care for creation. Pope Francis has asked all of us to join in this time of prayer with and for “our common home” **(Member of the congregation is invited to light a candle on the altar)**

A small centre piece may be used with some fruit , flowers /a plant and a few vegetables

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray: God of all creation,
Your spirit dances throughout the earth,
You give drink to the trees,
shade for the birds,
bread for the hungry,
you bring life and make all things holy,
Flood us with your grace,
so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty,
and reflect your kingdom here on earth.
We ask this through Christ your son, Jesus Christ
Amen.

Reflection – (Members of the congregation to read this quietly to themselves)

This Sister Mother Earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail”. We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth. Our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters (L.S.2)

(Or another reading of your choice)

Litany of Repentance

(Say or sing responses)

Priest/Leader: O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

All: Open your eyes to see.

Priest/Leader: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

All: Open your eyes to see.

All: **Kyrie eleison/Lord have mercy**

Priest/Leader: O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

All: Open your eyes to see.

Priest/Leader: O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering,

All: Open your eyes to see.

Christe eleison/Christ have mercy

Priest/Leader: God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

All: That we repent and care more deeply.

Priest/Leader: So move us to grieve the damage to the climate and the loss of life,

All: That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

Kyrie eleison/Lord ha

Solo Reading

"It's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep.
My great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
What did you do while the Planet was plundered?
What did you do when the Earth was unravelling?
surely you did something
when the seasons started failing?
As the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?
Did you fill the street with protest
when democracy was stolen?
What did you do
once
you
knew?..."

Excerpt from "Hieroglyphic Stairway" by Drew Dillinger

(A member of the congregation lights a candle on the altar)

Lament: Instrumental music is played here

First Reading from: Book of Wisdom 11:24-26-12:1

For you love all things that exist and detest none of the things that you have made,
For you would not have made anything if you had hated it.
How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?
Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?
You spare all things, for they are yours,
O Lord, you who love the living.
For your immortal Spirit is in all things.

This is the Word of the Lord

Solo reading of this poem by Mary Oliver

Look and See

This morning, at waterside, a sparrow flew
to a water rock and landed, by error, on the back
of an eider duck; lightly it fluttered off, amused.
The duck, too, was not provoked, but, you might say, was
laughing.

This afternoon a gull sailing over
our house was casually scratching
its stomach of white feathers with one
pink foot as it flew.

Oh Lord, how shining and festive is your gift to us, if we
only look, and see.

~Mary Oliver

Gospel: Mark 16:15

And Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation'

The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

(A member of the congregation lights a candle on the altar)

Some reflective instrumental music may be played here

A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation (L.S. 246)

All say: God, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Reader 1 Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory

.All: **All creation is a song of praise to God**

Reader 2 Praise be to you!
Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You dwell in our hearts and inspire us to do what is good
All : All creation is a song of praise to God

Reader 3 Praise be to you!
Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
Teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
All: **All creation is a song of praise to God.**

Reader 4 Praise be you!
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
For every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.
All: **All creation is a song of praise to God**

Reader 5 God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
All: **All creation is a song of praise to God.**

Leader: Let us pray:

Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts. Teach us to care for the earth: to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure, to free the waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of the sun, to protect the climate and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with all. We ask this of you, God of the universe, through Christ Our Lord. Amen

(Member of congregation lights candle on altar)

Prayers of the Intercession

Let us pray

Sung Response

“O Lord hear us we pray. O Lord give us your love” (or other suitable response)

1. We pray for all leaders in the Church as they strive to work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation
Sung response
2. Creator God, you showed us how to live on this earth when you were present among us in the person of Jesus. May we live out the values he embodied, especially in his appreciation of the ordinary wonders of life: the lilies of the field, the sparrows that fall, the way the wind blows.
Sung response

3. Creator God, in Christ you walked among us, attuned to the earth and its elements, the plants, trees and animals as well as human beings. May we have the same sense of connection and interdependence with the whole of creation.
Sung response
4. Creator God, we pray for visionaries, artists and writers, that through their work we may see Creation afresh.
Sung response
5. Creator God, the sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.
Sung response
6. Creator God, inspire the Church to develop partnerships of action with others to address the pressing issues of our planet especially climate change.
Sung response

Leader:

Let us pray

7. Creator God, we confess that the way we are using fossil fuels and other destructive forms of energy today is destroying the forests, changing the climate, the seas, the soils, the biodiversity and the balance of life on our fragile planet, dispossessing the poor and future generations. Help us to choose life for all that is at risk – for neighbours near and far and for those who came after us. Give us the knowledge to learn what we do not know but long to understand, so that we may honour and nurture all that makes us one with you. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

(A member of the congregation lights a candle on the altar)

Pause for reflection

Solo Reading

What I Have Learned So Far

Meditation is old and honourable, so why should I
not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside,
Looking into the shining world? Because, properly
attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion.

Can one be passionate about the just, the
Ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit
to no labour in its cause? I don't think so.

All summations have a beginning, all effect has a
story, all kindness begins with the sown seed.

Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of
light is at the crossroads of - indolence, or action.

Be ignited or be gone (Mary Oliver)

(Group may wish to plant a bulb or each one commit silently to a small action for the coming year to care for “our common home”)

Concluding Prayer

God of the universe,
We thank you for your many good gifts –
For the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits,
For clean water and fresh air for food and shelter, animals and plants.
Forgive us for the time we have taken the earth’s resources for granted.
Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learnt to care and share,
To touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things.
We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference.
Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species.
And help us to willingly share your gifts today and always.

Amen

(A member of the congregation lights a candle on the altar.)

Final Blessing:

Bless us, + in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As we go forth with joy and hope to care for God’s creation,

- walking gently on the earth,
- in right relationship,
- nurtured by your love,
- taking only what we need,
- giving back to the earth in gratitude,
- honouring all with reverence,
- reconciling and healing,
- mindful of those who will come after,
and of the poor today
- recognising our proper place as part of, not apart from, your creation.

Ignite your spark within us, that we may know ourselves as truly human and irrevocably part of the Web of Life.