

# SEASON OF CREATION 2023

## PRAYERS AND WORSHIP MATERIAL



### Week 5

#### Week 5 opening

#### [Based on St Francis/Laudato Si]

Praise be to you, our Lord  
**Through our beloved Earth**  
whose arms  
embrace all forms of life

Praise be to you, our Lord

**Through our beloved Earth,**  
**who sustains and governs even us**

Praise be to you, our Lord  
**Through our beloved Earth**

**whose flowers and fruit  
delight and nourish us**

**[The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon,](#)**

St Francis of Assisi: (via Ignatian Solidarity Network)

**Prayer of Approach:**

Sustaining God, you call us into loving relationship  
where love involves respect,  
gifts given and received.

And this is love:  
where voices raised in pain and praise  
can count on hearing.

Today we offer praise, rejoicing that we're not alone;  
for myriad creatures, in their way  
bring diverse glory to God's name, who makes and loves them.

As other people, other faiths, grasp the urgency  
with which we pray in these days of Nature and Climate Crisis.

And so, nourished by beauty, empowered by hope  
assailed by injustice and global danger

We grasp this opportunity to be built up  
resilient in love, through our brother Jesus

In whom, beyond the Cross of 'too late'  
Beyond the grave of buried hope  
God is with us through all that is to come.

This day and in all the days we've yet to share,  
Relying on the strength of grace

in friendship with God's Earth,  
from whom we're made.

## **Confession, Pardon**

God, how we have grumbled!  
and used the power of speech to knock down  
when we might have praised, encouraged,  
built up hope and more.

Which fellow creatures need.

God, how we have grumbled!  
And blamed, when we too were at fault;  
Hiding behind the mess made by others;  
Choosing to do no good  
because once we have chosen badly.

And although we each are gift to Earth  
in our variety and particularity,  
because we can't do everything  
we let it be said and thought  
that we can do nothing  
in the face of the urgent crisis  
[of Nature and Climate.]

Spurning the light burden,  
refusing the easy yoke

So discounting your grace  
and your unreasonable determination  
to value and support with grace.

Let's not go on and on.

Forgiveness puts a stop to that.

Forgiveness takes the doldrum of our lives  
And blows the Wild Wind of Spirit full of love,  
with no excuse left but to try  
And live as now we pray:

[Lord's Prayer ]

## **Thanksgiving:**

Thanks be to you, our Lord  
Through our beloved Earth  
whose arms embrace all forms of life

Thanks be to you, our Lord  
Through our beloved Earth,  
who sustains and governs even us

Thanks be to you, our Lord  
Through our beloved Earth  
whose flowers and fruit  
delight and nourish us

Thanks be to you, our Lord  
that justice can be glimpsed  
and right directions taken  
and that there's joy in this:  
- to cry out for God's help  
even as we offer what little is given to us.

We thank God for this Season of Creation  
for the togetherness of churches who engage  
and the faith that is enriched  
the perspectives re-shaped  
the resources re-purposed  
for love and for justice

whatever may come!  
Hallelujah anyway!  
AMEN.

### **Intercession**

(please add or subtract sections according to local need).

Sustaining God

who values and attends to the fate  
of the least of your creatures,  
hear and build, by grace, on our concerns and prayers  
for your Earth, whom we also are.

Give wisdom hope and joy to the prophetic movements of protest;  
Encourage and sustain  
the young who give global leadership  
spurning the trap of sour grapes.  
Encourage and sustain  
The old who mentor, pray and offer longing  
keeping faith  
that their legacy may be of beauty and justice.

Encourage and sustain  
so many caught up in the pressures of daily life and work  
those who feel they lack the power or resources  
to 'make a difference'  
sufficient to be seen.

Though you know different.

Make us hungry for the refreshment,  
which comes from life with green and growing things  
that change comes from hearts and heads both.

As news comes in of crisis caused by knowing choices  
Show us how our own change matters

to sisters and brothers this world over,  
through Christ who lives for all.

*We pray for courage amongst our leaders,  
to shape the conditions  
in which change may be rapid and just,  
and the grace to tell them when they get it right.*

*We pray for peace amongst the nations  
and an end to the hatred of God  
expressed in war  
where Creation is always the first casualty*

*God, keep us going, that our worry over tomorrow  
may not overcome our joy, hope and commitment  
to the goodness of this Day you have made.  
AMEN*

## **Week 5 Closing**

God has spoken  
**Earth has taught us**

God has spoken  
**Life instructs us**

God is speaking  
**Signs and wonders**

Christ commissions:  
**Be Good News!**

# MUSIC:

We recommend the use of the choices suggested via Trinity College, in which Eco-Congregation Scotland trustee Iain



McLarty is fully involved.

<https://www.trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/post/creation-time>

**This week's New Words to a recycled tune:**

## **'Resilience'**

LM 8888- e.g. 'Church Triumphant'  
cf Acts 4:36 " Barnabus, the 'Son of Encouragement'

1) Be offspring of encouragement  
for hope's the gift that will sustain  
when flood and drought and wind exceed  
the expectations we maintain.

2) The truth in love may silence friends  
though friendship now to those extends  
whose habitats and homelands shake  
we read the signs, for Jesus' sake!

3) And though we may not 'fix the world'  
Our life's worthwhile and joy sustains.  
Though well-informed we're standing firm  
For God's with us, so hope remains.