

The Season of CREATION 2017

What is it?

In 2015, Pope Francis officially declared September 1 as a World Day of Prayer for Creation. In addition, Francis has called us to participate with Christians around the world in celebrating the “**Season of Creation**.” The “**Season of Creation**” is a month-long prayerful observation of the state of our world, its beauty and the ecological crises that threaten it and all its inhabitants. It runs from Sept. 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, through Oct. 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis.

“The contemplative gaze renders the whole world sacramental.”

- Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ



How can we celebrate it?

- Read the Letter of Pope Francis on the Establishment of the World Day of Prayer for Creation. [Click Here](#)
- Spend time each day to reflect on and pray with a passage from *Laudato Si'*. [Click Here](#)
- Join the Global Catholic Climate Movement. [Click Here](#)
- Reread *Love Cannot Wait* and find new ways to respond to the cries of all the earth. [Click Here](#)
- Take the *Laudato Si'* Pledge. [Click Here](#)
- Join activities and prayers with Green Church. [Click Here](#)
- Celebrate a **Novena for the Feast of St. Francis** from September 25th to October 4th by praying with an element of creation each day:
a blade of grass, air, a leaf, a drop of water, sunshine, a cloud, a bird, a vegetable.

Lord, I come to do your will

Lord, allow my ears to listen to the cry of the earth,
the voice of my sisters and brothers,
those who face the harsh reality of the climate change.

Lord, I come to do your will.

Lord, allow my eyes to see the beauty of creation,
in flowers, creatures, forests, and cities alike.

Lord, I come to do your will.

Lord, allow my voice to speak out for justice
and ensure people living in poverty are heard.

Lord, I come to do your will.

Lord, allow my hands to care for the earth,
to toil, to reap, to celebrate.

Lord, I come to do your will.

Lord, allow my feet to take the path less trod,
to walk the extra mile,
to take your message out to the world.

Lord, I come to do your will.

Father Michael Fitzsimmons/CAFOD

Sources for Pictures:

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Day of Prayer for Creation

Ethel Howley, SSND



During the Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4), Christians across the Earth come together to pray and care for creation. Today, indifference and spiritual apathy towards God’s gift of creation and the people impacted by its exploitation is what Pope Francis refers to in his encyclical, *Laudato Si’* as an “ecological crisis.” He has called Catholics to join other Christians in this season to look at this crisis as “a summons to a profound interior conversion.” To end the evil of environmental destruction, we must start by examining our own broken relationships with God, with one another and with creation and choosing to open our hearts to an ecological conversion.

Leader: We gather today to give thanks for God’s abundant good gifts of creation; for clean water and air, for food and shelter, and animals and plants. We give thanks for the wisdom we have gained over the years and for the joy of loving all we encounter. We pray that as Christ’s disciples, our hearts and minds may be radically transformed, so that we learn to heal the Earth with gentleness and love.

First Reading: *Laudato Si’ # 139, Pope Francis*

When we speak of the “environment,” what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behavior patterns, and the ways it grasps reality. . . . We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Pause

For Reflection: Where was I most aware of God’s beauty in creation this week?

Sing: “All the ends of the Earth, all you creatures of the sea, lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord. For the Lord of the Earth, the master of the sea has come with justice for the world.”
 (“All the Ends of the Earth,” Bob Dufford, SJ TODAY’S Missal #548)

Second Reading: *Evening Thoughts by Thomas Berry*

As humans we are born of the Earth, nourished by the Earth, healed by the Earth. The natural world tells us: I will feed you, I will clothe you, I will shelter you, and I will heal you. Only do not so devour me or use me that



you destroy my capacity to mediate the divine and the human. For I offer you a communion with the divine, I offer you gifts that you can exchange with each other. I offer you flowers whereby you may express your reverence for the divine and your love for each other.

In the vastness of the sea, in the snow-covered mountains, in the rivers flowing through the valleys, in the serenity of the landscape, and in the foreboding of the great storms that sweep over the land, in all these experiences I offer you inspiration for your music, for your art, your dance. All these benefits the Earth gives to us individually, in our communities and throughout the entire Earth . . .

[Thomas Berry] would suggest that we see these early years of the twenty-first century as the period when we discover the great community of the Earth, a comprehensive community of all the living and nonliving components of the planet. . . . Such are the foundations of our journey into the future.

Pause

For Reflection: How did I make a conscious effort to care for God’s creation this week?

Sing: “All the ends of the Earth, all you creatures of the sea, lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord. For the Lord of the Earth, the master of the sea has come with justice for the world.”

Third Reading: *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill Psalm 8

O Love, my Beloved, How powerful is your name in all the earth!
You, whose glory is sung in heaven by the angels and saints,
Who with the innocence and spontaneity of a child,
Confound those who are mighty and proud,
You quiet the unloving and fearful.

When I look up at the heavens, at the work of Love’s creation, at the infinite variety of your plan;

What is woman that you rejoice in her?

And man that you do delight in him?

You have made us in your image,

You fill us with your Love;

You have made us co-creators of the earth!

guardians of the planet!

to care for all your creatures,

to tend the land, the sea,

and the air we breathe;

all that You have made,

You have placed in our hands.

O Love, my Beloved, How powerful is your Name in all the earth!



Pause



For Reflection: How can I repair breaks in my relationship with creation?

Sing: “All the ends of the Earth, all you creatures of the sea, lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord. For the Lord of the Earth, the master of the sea has come with justice for the world.”

Petitions

Response: *Renew our awe for all creation*

Leader:

Creating God, you instill your Spirit in all you have made. Hear us as we pray:

Lead all people to a just use of the materials of creation, we pray . . .

Teach us to respond to your love through care and service to one another and all creation, we pray . . .

Help us to protect nature’s life cycle on land and in the oceans, we pray . . .

Inspire people of all faith traditions in their efforts to address climate change, we pray . . .

Further efforts among nations to work toward environmental sustainability for the common good, we pray. . .

Inspire your Church to understand, promote, and live an integral ecology, we pray . . .

Restore all life forms and communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey, we pray . . .

Together, let us pray:

All creation sings your praise, O Creator God of the universe and we marvel at your glory as we pray to become messengers to the world of your goodness and of the need for people of faith to unite in caring for the Earth for the generations yet to come. AMEN

Sing: “All the ends of the Earth, all you creatures of the sea, lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord. For the Lord of the Earth, the master of the sea has come with justice for the world.”

