



The Season of Creation

SETTING: A candle to light surrounded with other natural items from local ecology.

INTRODUCTION: The Season of Creation runs yearly between September 1st and October 4th. It is during this time when 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. We join to rejoice in the good gift of creation and reflect on how we care for it. This season offers a precious opportunity to pause amid our day-to-day lives and contemplate the fabric of life into which we are woven. Of course, any time is a time to ponder how we care for the gift God has given to us..... our earth.

LEADER: Job 12: 7-9

But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

Leader: We gather in the image of the Creature.

ALL: Who is a community of love.

Leader: We gather in the name of the Redeemer.

ALL: Who reconciles all of creation.

Leader: We gather in the presence of the Life Giver.

ALL: Who inspires new life and renews it.

SONG: All Creatures of our God and King (Find on YouTube)

All creatures of our God and King
Life up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-one
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in power to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

FIRST READING: John 1:1-14

Before the world was created, the Word already existed; he was with God, and he was the same God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all of creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been put out.

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell the people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light – the light that comes into the world and shines on all humankind.

The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive him and believe in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of the human father; God himself was their father.

REFLECT:

As God's children, placed on this earth created for us by God, how do you work to take care of our earth?

How does creation speak to you of the wonders of God?

Psalms 36:5-9

LEADER: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life

LEADER: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike.

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life

LEADER: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All the people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life

LEADER: They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life

LEADER: For with you is the fountain of life;

ALL: In your light we see light.

SECOND READING: Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home
(Individuals can read separate paragraphs)

“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.” (Evangelii Gaudium, 261) For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.
(para. 217)

Nevertheless, self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not by the sum of individual good deeds. The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.

(para. 219)

This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness.... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures but joined in a splendid universal communion. (para. 220)

Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced life style together with the capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life. Nature is filled with the words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-wracking distractions, or the cult of appearances? Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride roughshod over everything around them. This too affects how they treat the environment. (para. 225)

REFLECT:

To what interior, personal conversion are you being called?

How can this internal transformation be turned into action?

When have you found yourself engaging in frenetic activity? How has living at a frenetic pace led you to behave in ways that are harmful to the environment?

SHARE YOUR REFLECTION

LEADER: We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour

out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as sisters and brothers, harming no one.

ALL: Enlighten our hearts and care for your world.

LEADER: O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

ALL: Enlighten our hearts and care for your world.

LEADER: Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

ALL: Enlighten our hearts and care for your world.

LEADER: We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggles for justice, love and peace.

ALL: Enlighten our hearts and care for your world. Amen.

(adapted from: A prayer for the Earth:

Pope Francis)

CLOSING PRAYER:

May the God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation.

CLOSING SONG: This Land is Your Land (Woody Guthrie)

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the redwood forest, to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me
As I went walking that river of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
And saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me

I roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
And all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me

When the sun comes up shining, then I was strolling
In the wheat fields waving and dust clouds rolling
The voice was chanting as the fog was lifting
This land was made for you and me

This land was.....