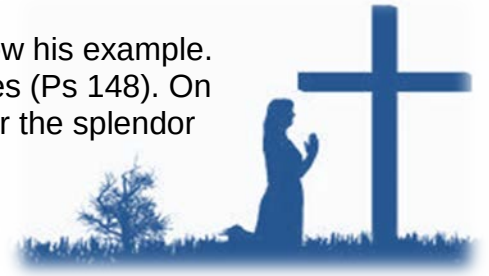


PRAYERS FOR GOD'S CREATION

Jesus often withdrew in nature to pray (Luke 6, 12) and we can follow his example. The biblical tradition even encourages praising God with all creatures (Ps 148). On our website, you will find a great variety of prayers to pray to God for the splendor of his Creation.



Thanksgiving for the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, Episcopal Church (1983)

God of All

Our God is the God of all, the God of heaven and earth, of the sea and of the rivers; The God of the sun and of the moon and of all the stars; The God of the lofty mountains and of the lowly valleys. He has His dwelling around heaven and earth, and sea, and all that is in them.
Saint Patrick (5th century)

Blessing of a Fruit Tree

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has made nothing lacking in His world, and created in it good creatures and good trees to give humanity pleasure.

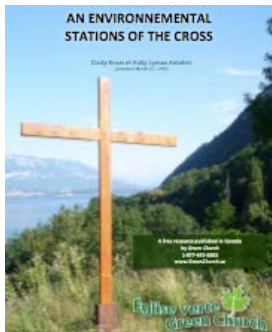
Jewish blessing for when one sees a blossoming tree in spring

When I open my eyes

When I open my eyes, my God, on all that You have created I have heaven already in my hands. Serenely I gather in my lap roses and lilies and all green things while I praise your works. My own works I ascribe entirely to you. Gladness springs forth from sorrow, and joy brings happiness.
Hildegard of Bingen (12th century)

CREATION CARE PRAYER SERVICES

The *Green Churches* website boasts a diversity of prayer services and liturgies to help your community praise the Lord for the splendours of Creation. We strive to offer various prayers to accommodate many Christian denominations. Have you organized a Creation-themed prayer service one recently? Share it with us!



Environmental Stations of the Cross

"All has been reconciled in Christ, on earth and in heaven, through the blood he shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:20)



An evening of prayer for the Earth

Taizé Prayer is one of the best contributions the church can make on Earth Day (April 22nd).
"The earth and all that it contains belong to God." (Psalm 24:1)



Blessing for Tree Planting

"On your way, all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)



ACTIVITIÉS

If we want Church to be there for our children, we must preach the gospel. If we want the myriad creatures who assure our planet biodiversity to survive for future generations, we must preach another conversion. Don't these two callings share the same origin?

"Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16 ; 15)

Visit the "Activities" section four website to discover meaningful intergenerational activities programs in your faith community. Here are a few:



Seven Days of Creation

This faith education activity helps us identify some of the symbols of the Seven Days of Creation story (Genesis, chap. 1) so as to enrich our perception of the environment. Participants begin to see their living environment as part of God's Creation and to recognize our role as stewards of Creation. Appropriate for children and teenagers.

1. Game. Place the drawings of the Seven Days of Creation in the proper order.
2. View the "Seven Days of Creation" video (which you may download from VIMEO).
3. Discuss, pray, and make a commitment to care for creation.



Seek first the Kingdom of God, the rest will be given to you

At the end of this spirituality activity inspired by Matthew (6, 25-32), the faith community will understand that true happiness does not lie in the possession of material wealth, but rather in seeking the Kingdom of God. We can trust God. He gives us what we need, like he does with flowers and birds.

- Testimony by Saint Francis of Assisi
- Songs and coloring
- Videos to watch on YouTube
- Playing pictures
- Discussion questions

Download the outlines of these activities from the *Green Churches* website.