



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



THE PRAYER GUIDE

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

PRAYER GUIDE *For the use
of local Season of Creation
organizing committees
wishing to inspire their faith
community to come together
in prayer for the well-being
of the Creation God entrusts
to our care.*



A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY

Exodus 3:8, Ezekiel 20:6

*"I have come to bring them to a good and broad land,
a land flowing with milk and honey,
the most glorious of all lands."*



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS



**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF
ASSISI**



THANKSGIVING



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS



These verses describe a land that is good for pasture and agriculture.

Animals would have plenteous grazing land so they could produce milk; people would be able to cultivate plants and bees to produce honey.

The pairing of milk and honey symbolizes fullness of life.

SEPTEMBER 1ST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Prayer for the Season of Creation 2020

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 times we have taken the earth's resources for granted

And wasted what You have given us.

Transform our hearts and minds

So that we may learn to care and share,

To touch the earth with gentleness and with love,

Respecting all living things. Amen

- Adapted from Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland

Brief History

On 1 September 1989, His Holiness Dimitrios I, Patriarch of Constantinople, decreed the first day of September as a day of special reverence and prayer for the Safeguarding of Creation. The Orthodox Church continues to celebrate this important day, the start of the liturgical year, with the reading of Chapter 1 of Genesis.

Since 2008, The World Council of Churches has encouraged all Christian denominations to observe and celebrate this day. In 2015, Pope Francis announced that the Catholic Church would also mark September 1st as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. It provides an occasion for Christians from various churches around the

world to gather together in prayer for the well-being of the earth, our common home.

Quote

"Our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly implies the recognition of and respect for all people and all living creatures. The urgent call and challenge to care for creation are an invitation for all of humanity to work towards sustainable and integral development.

Therefore, united by the same concern for God's creation and acknowledging the earth as a shared good, we fervently invite all people of goodwill to dedicate a time of prayer for the environment on 1 September." (Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Joint Message, 1 September 2017)

Prayer

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it.
Help us to act now for the good of future generations
and all your creatures.

Help us to become instruments of a new creation,
founded on the covenant of your love.

Amen.

From: The Cry of the Earth



*Read to yourself or to your children or grandchildren some of the
scripture passages singing praise to God for his Creation:*

Ps 65: 5-13, Ps 85: 10-13, Isaiah 11: 6-9, Ps 96: 10-12, Ps 148: 1-13

Suggestions

Compose a prayer to thank God for this rich land he has created for
us. Promise him to do your best to make sure our land continues to
flow with milk and honey for future generations.

Take the family to visit a forested area where autumn colours are
unfolding. Absorb the beauty and harmony; vow to sustain and
protect it.

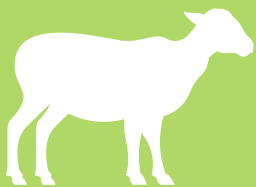
*A beautiful Franciscan prayer service for Sept. 1st is available in
English and French at <https://missionsfranciscains.blogspot.com/>*



***"NONE OF YOU CAN BECOME MY DISCIPLE IF YOU DO NOT GIVE
UP ALL YOUR POSSESSIONS." (LUKE 14: 33)***



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



God's artistry is in
everything,
everywhere and we
as humanity are
part of His creativity.

OCTOBER 4 = FEAST OF ST.FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

A PRAYER BY SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI, 1224

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honour, and all blessing. To you alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you made them, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all weather, through which you give your creatures sustenance.

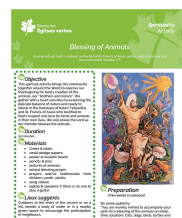
Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister, Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy are those who endure in peace, for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those she finds doing your most holy will. The second death can do no harm to them.



THE SAINT'S LOVE FOR CREATURES ANIMATE AND INANIMATE

In art he praises the Artist;
whatever he discovers in creatures
guides him to the Creator.
He rejoices in all the works of the Lord's hands, [Ps 92:5]
and through their delightful display
he gazes on their life-giving reason and cause.
In beautiful things he discerns Beauty Itself;
all good things cry out to him: [Gen 1:31]
"The One who made us is the Best." [Ps 100:3]
Following the footprints imprinted on creatures,
he follows his Beloved everywhere; [Job 23:11, Song 5:17, Matt 12:18]
out of them all he makes for himself a ladder [Gen 28:12-13]
by which he might reach the Throne. [Jb 23:3]
He embraces all things
with an intensity of unheard devotion,
speaking to them about the Lord
and exhorting them to praise Him.
(Thomas Celano's "The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul")
(Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Vol. 2, The Founder, page 353)

Reflection

Some of the sayings of St. Francis of Assisi reveal aspects of his vision:

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist."

"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today."

"Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words."

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received – only what you have given."

"True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice."

"We should seek not so much to pray but to become prayer."

"I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, He can work through anyone."

Suggestions

Organize a Blessing of Animals in the church yard or inside the church. Like St. Francis, we want to show our appreciation and respect for these "brothers and sisters" who reflect God's love to us. To illustrate the lowly poverty of the infancy of the Saviour born at Bethlehem, Francis organized the first live nativity scene in 1223.

He ensured that everybody including flora (hay) and fauna (ox and ass) had a part to play since he knew that the Saviour was born for all. Perhaps a blessing prayer of your manger scene could be repeated at services throughout the Christmas season:
Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him who is "God-with-us" and Saviour of all. Amen *Download our Blessings of the Animals pdf* : <https://greenchurches.ca/tools/spirituality/activities/>

Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Alleluia! - **Psalm 148**



OCTOBER 12 2020

THANKSGIVING

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - (Col. 3: 15-17)

Prayers

You've blessed me with friends and laughter and fun
 With rain that's as soft as the light from the sun
 You've blessed me with the stars to brighten each night
 You've given me help to know wrong from right
 You've given me so much, so please Lord give me too
 A heart that is always grateful to you.

http://www.faithandworship.com/Celtic_Blessings_and_Prayers.htm#ixzz5lBb5i6cX

THANKSGIVING

Suggestions

Address a word of thanks to
 God sometime today;
 perhaps as you gather
 together for your
 Thanksgiving meal:
 Bless us O God as we sit
 together. Bless the food we
 eat today. Bless the hands
 that made the food. Bless
 us O God. Amen.
 Invite each one in turn to
 say what they are thankful
 for. Don't forget the
 children!



A CELTIC THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Posted on April 2, 2011 by celticozarkian

King of all glens and moors, of all cliffs and seas. You were God before the beginnings of the Universe. You moved through the heavens before the waters of the seas. You are the alpha and omega, our beginning and end. You created the earth of nothingness, shaped the earth from the breath of your words. You carved the cliffs, and lochs, and valleys. You filled our world with the heathers, and grasses, and sweet smelling flowers. You gave us the trees.

You measured each thing, and declared it all good. You know the height of the tallest mountain, and depth of the deepest sea. You know our exact place in this Universe. Your love surrounds it all. You created men and women to be the trustees of all your creation. You have asked us to care for it, and love it, just as you love us. Because you are our Creator, you always surround us with your endless love. Help us to be thankful today, and to share the love you give us in your Creation with all we see today. Amen.

