



SEASON OF CREATION

SPIRITUALITY



Green Churches
Network

PRAYER GUIDE



This spiritual tool offers material for organizers who wish to inspire their faith community and to join together in prayer for the wellbeing of Creation.

As we begin this Season of Creation with thousands of Christians and people of good faith, Lord give us the courage to Listen to the Voice of Creation and respond to the cries of the most vulnerable, Lord give us the strength to hear and to help those most affected by climate change.

Amen!

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

September 1st, 2022

Since 2008, The World Council of Churches has encouraged all Christian denominations to observe and celebrate this day. 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.

The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it
Psalm 24:1



"Caring for God's creation is a spiritual commission requiring a response of commitment. This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it"

- Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin

Sunday September 4th, 2022

Teach us to count our days, And we
shall obtain wisdom of the heart.

Psalm 90:12



Sunday September 11th, 2022

Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:17

Lord, we hear the reports of scientists reminding us that the future depends on us. And that the window for climate action is closing fast. Are we really listening? Lord, teach us to count the days to save our earth and the climate.

For years, young people have been asking us to change. What will the earth look like for their children and grandchildren?

Inhospitable regions will push people into extreme poverty, and on the road to exile, violence and exclusion will be the order of the day. And for some, it will be death.

Everything is linked on our planet, and every little action is also necessary. Give us the wisdom of the heart when it comes to the climate and the safeguarding of creation!



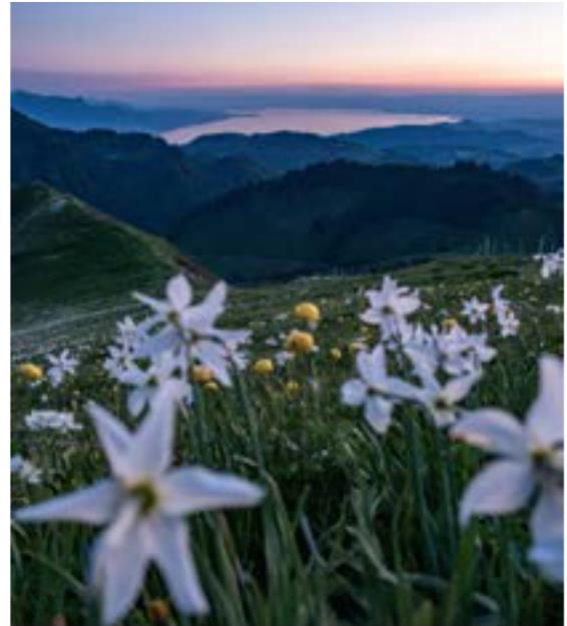
Lord, I often forget to praise you, to acknowledge the gifts you give to humanity; The gifts that are others, those who are near and those who come from afar; The gifts that you put in the heart of each and every one; The gift that is creation, our common home!



Sunday September 18th, 2022

He raises the weak from the dust,
He raises the poor from the
garbage heap.

Psalm 113:7



Lord, inspire your people to support those
affected by an unhealthy environment;

Those who struggle with the unhealthy dust
from nearby industries who need solidarity;
Those who have not had drinking water for
decades in our country, so rich in rivers, who
ask for our support;

Those who see the coastline under attack and
the risk of their homes being washed away;

Those who are hungry and thirsty for justice
make this appeal: the right to a healthy envi-
ronment is not a dead issue.

Sunday September 25, 2022

Author of the earth and the skies,
of the sea, of all that is in them...

Psalm 146:6

Author of the mountains, the meadows,
the plains, the northern shoreline and
the many islands;
thousands of lakes and rivers;
ice, icebergs, snow, rain; bays
and shores;
and the midnight sun:
To you our praise!



Sunday October 2nd 2022

Do not close your heart...

Psalm 95:8



October 4th, 2022

The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi Day

Blessing of the animals

Do not close your heart, the psalmist sings, but listen to the voice of the Lord.
Do not close your heart but listen to the voice of creation.
Do not close your heart but listen to the voice of the oceans!
Do not close your heart but listen to the voice of mother earth and the outcasts of the table! Do not close your heart but listen to the voice of the right to a healthy environment!
Do not close your heart but listen to the voice of the North.
Do not close your heart, but listen to the voice of the beloved Son, sent to announce the Good News to all creation!



On this last day of the Season of Creation, many churches welcome pets inside and offer a blessing of the animals while paying homage to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. It is also World Animal Day and World Habitat Day, where we can reflect on our relationship with all the creatures of the Earth and live simply like St. Francis of Assisi.

*For the blessing of the animals,
here are some suggested biblical passages:*

📖 So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name.

The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals...

Genesis 2:19-20

Job answered and said:

📖 But now ask the beasts to teach you, the birds of the air to tell you; Or speak to the earth to instruct you, and the fish of the sea to inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of God has done this?

Job 12:1.7-9



📖 You sea monsters and all water creatures, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever. All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever. All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.

Daniel 3:79-81

📖 Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

Isaiah 11:6-9



See, I am doing something new!
 Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 In the wilderness I make a way,
 in the wasteland, rivers.
 Wild beasts honor me,
 jackals and ostriches,
 For I put water in the wilderness
 and rivers in the wasteland
 for my chosen people to drink,
 The people whom I formed for myself,
 that they might recount my praise.

Isaiah 43:19-21



Prayer of blessing

Lord, creator of heaven and earth:

Blessed are you for all creatures on earth, in heaven and in the waters;

Everything that breathes, everything that moves, all these beasts, from the smallest to the largest, from the first to the last, from the closest to the farthest, all these are the work of your hands. Bless all the animals.

And especially today ... (name the animals ...)

We thank you for all the believers who, for thousands of years, have helped us to appreciate their presence. And invite us to protect them.

We thank you for St. Isaac the Syrian, St. Francis of Assisi

and Seraphim of Sarov, who lived a universal brotherhood with animals.

Give us the intelligence not to consider animals only in terms of our needs.

Give us the courage to restore what we have broken or hurt.

And what is threatened by our behavior. Give us the courage to discover new ways to be stewards of creation.

Amen.

Canticle of the Creatures

Although Francis left behind relatively few written documents, his Canticle of the Creatures (also known as The Canticle of Brother Sun), composed one year before he died and while he was laying ill in a small dark hut near San Damiano, sings that the entire creation is charged with the goodness of God so that, even in eternal life, creation will offer praise and glory to the Most High.

Canticles of the Creatures

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in
heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of
weather, through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother
Earth, who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for
Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily
Death, from whom no one living can escape.

Francis of Assisi

Prayers for Creation

We thank those devoted Christians who have contributed prayers to be included in this guide.

Creator God

For breathtaking sunrises, and stunning sunsets.
 For the morning light of each new day and the vastness of the night sky.
 For the wonder of Creation and all life that depends on it.
 For all the beauty that surrounds us.
 We give thanks.

Provide us with the wisdom to live out your call to care for the air, the water, the soil,
 for the whole planet.
 Give us knowledge so we will tread on the earth gently.
 Fill our hearts with love for this earth and all the neighbours we share creation with;
 the plants, the animals, marine life and the birds that soar above our heads.
 Holy One, bless us each day with a commitment to grow closer to you as we grow closer
 to all of your creation. Amen

Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferes

For the creation



Lord,
 You who create the luminous constellations
 and the sumptuous trees,
 You who give each one his food in due time,
 Pour out your mercy
 On our cities and lands that have become battlefields'
 Awaken our will to walk together
 Toward a humanity reconciled in your son, Jesus,
 He who lives and reigns with you forever.
 Amen.

Gisèle Turcotte

Prayer for our garden of living together

For our common home, for its perpetuity,
It is a call to life;
An invitation to all spiritualities;
An embodied response to conflict.

His land nourishes and gathers,
Fulfilling the best of promises.
In our garden of living together, Lord,
we hear the voice of your creation.

Groupe d'action en écologie intégrale (Gaei)

Simple prayer

The wind in the leaves is a sign of life.
The song of the loon is that of freedom.
The sound of the woodpecker represents
the joy of work.
The cracking of the trees in winter is a
sign of coldness.
The forest taught me the happiness in the simplicity
and the joy of education.

A.M.D.G. - For the Greater Glory of God

Bernard Hudon

Armando

First climate refugees in
Quebec You and your
companions,
Chased from your parched lands.
To the farms of the north.

By your hand,
The pesticides, spread
In your body, spread.

Cancer and poverty,
That is your lot.
Song of your pain
In the fields of pain.

Fortunately!
Your cry resounds
In our indignant hearts.
Pushed by the breath of the Spirit,
Respect and justice
For all living things.

Daniel Pellerin

