

SEASON OF CREATION



PRAYER GUIDE



Inspire your faith community with this spiritual tool and join together in prayer. This Prayer Guide has a prayer for each Sunday of the Season of Creation including World Day of Prayer for Creation and the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th.



***Friday September 1st:
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation***

To live this Season of Creation 2023

God of Creation, we enter this Season of Creation seeking to respond to the urgent calls to protect and safeguard Creation, this marvelous gift you give to the peoples of the world.

The prophet Amos reminds us that our faith demands that justice flows like water, like a stream that will never run dry (Amos 5:24). How can we do justice to the battered and polluted earth, and to the people most affected by climate change?

We thank You for all the people and organizations that are taking action to prevent, respect and restore Your creation. We also give thanks for the initiatives and projects of green committees and faith communities here and around the world. What we do here has positive impacts everywhere else in the world.

Before You, we must also confess our faults in our mission as stewards of Creation, admit our indifferences, our hesitations, our shortcomings and our contradictions between our words and our actions.

Being a steward of Creation goes hand in hand with Your call to be a guardian of our brothers and sisters. The love of Creation, and the love of people are one in the same.

Enlighten our consciences so that we can communicate and undertake new initiatives in response to the moaning of the earth, the cry of the poor, and those displaced by climate change.

Give us also the bravery to open paths of hope on our earth so that we do not endanger present and future generations.

May we welcome the Holy Spirit so that, as Jesus said before his disciples, go and bear fruit "fruit that will last" (John 15:16).

Sunday September 3rd: Protecting Biodiversity

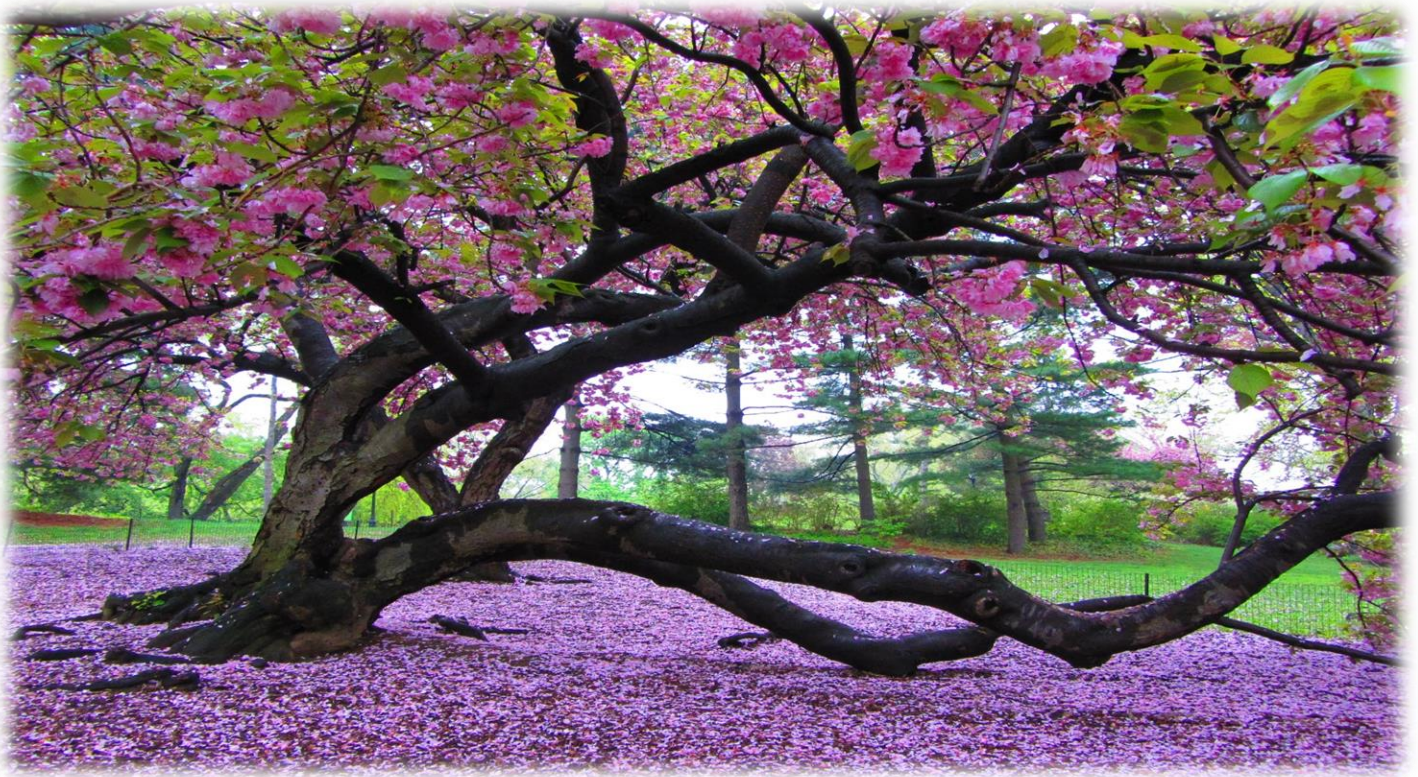
God of Creation, we thank you for the biodiversity you provide in all the lands and all the oceans.

Help us to become more aware of the richness and the fullness of biodiversity and to better understand the unique importance of each plant and animal. From the smallest to the largest, and from the South to the North.

Support us in concrete ways to ensure that our human actions do not jeopardize the diversity of our plants and animals.

Give us the courage to take a stand and act when species are threatened or in danger of extinction.

Bring us together in fruitful dialogue that leads to concrete actions that ensure the protection of biodiversity on this planet. May we encourage the nations of the world to respect international agreements concerning biodiversity. Amen.



Sunday September 10th: Preserve Wetlands

In Your great creative wisdom, Lord, You have made wetlands a unique part of life on our earth. We ignore that one quarter of the world's wetlands are in Canada. We also ignore that in populated areas, 70% of wetlands are degraded or destroyed because of our human activities¹.

Unfortunately, while they are essential to fight against climate change, wetlands are often threatened. They are the places where hundreds of species find their food and raise their young. May we understand that wetlands help filter water, sequester quantities of carbon, and reduce the risk of drought or flooding.

May we hear the wisdom of Patriarch Bartholomew who says that destroying wetlands² is one of the sins against Creation. May we hear the voice of Pope Francis who also states: "Wetlands, which are transformed into cultivated land, also lose the enormous biodiversity they once hosted." (LS 39)

May we join voices when individuals and organizations stand up to protect wetlands that are threatened by development projects. May we impress upon our faith community the importance of wetlands in safeguarding and protecting the environment. Amen.



¹ Source <https://www.ducks.ca/our-work/wetlands/>

² It is cited in Laudato Si no 8

Sunday September 17th: To Act on Energy

"The Lord gives strength to the weary, gives energy to the weak." Isaiah 40:29



Lord, put us on the path of renewable and sustainable energy.

Thank You for the sun that You created: it sends us its heat and its light that we can capture and convert into electricity.

Thank You for the wind that You give us: its breath is nourishing, and its power can be transformed into electricity, whether in wind farms on land, on the sea, or in local initiatives for energy independence.

May we ensure that our energy conversion is not just for good intentions, but action as well. May we take the time to connect with faith communities that have taken sustainable energy initiatives and give thanks for their commitment.

Amen.

*Sunday September 24th:
The Sower Has Gone Out ... Prayer for Today*

Lord, you are the Sower! (Prayer inspired by Mark 4:3-8)

You went out and called Your people to form a community of Sowers, Your people.

You, the Sower, went out with Your people to sow. And seeds of hope to protect and safeguard the earth fell into indifference.

You the Sower, you went out with Your people to sow. And seeds of commitment to recycle, reuse, and reduce have taken root in everyday actions, but ever-increasing consumption has produced even more waste and squandering.

You, the Sower, went out with Your people to sow. And seeds calling for concrete actions to protect the environment, water and biodiversity were sown. But the thorns of economic imperatives and certain technical prowess in search of ever greater profit are choking regions that have been cultivated for millennia, negatively impacting the beauty of the oceans, and transforming environments into mining and other waste.

You the Sower, went out with Your people to sow. And calls have been sown to protect and safeguard the earth, this gift of God to humanity. And they are bearing fruit at all levels: constructive dialogues, local and international initiatives, recognition of those who nurture the Earth, the guardians of Creation. For these, we thank You.

Make us a community of Sowers! Amen.



***Sunday October 1st:
Our Father, Creator of Heaven, Earth, and All Creatures***



The prayer *Our Father* adapted with excerpts from the Word of God:

Our Father of heaven and earth, Father of all creatures, Father of all that is, of all that moves and breathes.

*"The greatness and beauty of creatures give some indication of the One who gave them existence."
(Wisdom 13:5)*

May Your name be sanctified by all women and men, by the song of the birds and the splash of the rain, by the buzzing of the bee and the bellowing of the deer, by the bleating of the sheep and the cooing of the dove, and by all Your Creation.

"May the heavens and all Your creatures bless You from century to century" (Tobit 8:5).

May Your reign of peace and justice come at a time when the climate is in turmoil, when people are forced to leave their barren lands and species are threatened.

"For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains (Romans 8:22)

May Your will, done in heaven, be done on our earth which needs to be protected and safeguarded.

"O God, it is time for you to come back; from heaven look and see, do something for Your vineyard, protect it since you planted it. Cover with Your hand the man who does Your works, the son of man whom you have confirmed." Psalm 80:14-16.18

Give us today to share our daily bread with the most impoverished, to support the food sovereignty of farmers while fighting against food waste.

"Everyone expects you to give them food in its time. You open Your hand, and for all the living there is an abundance of Your goods." Psalm 145:15-16

"Give them something to eat Yourselves." Matthew 14:16

Forgive us our trespasses against our brothers and sisters, against future generations, against all creatures suffering from our inactions, to protect Your Creation as we forgive those who trespass against us.

"Work therefore for peace and for that which helps us to grow together." Romans 14:19

Do not let us be tempted to destroy this wonderful world you have given us and allow climatic injustice to spread.

"Yes, the vineyard of Yahweh... He expected justice from it and behold wickedness; he expected righteousness from it and behold cries of violence." Isaiah 5:7

But deliver us from our indifference, from our hesitation and from evil.

"Imagine a servant, trustworthy and capable. His lord has given him responsibility for the people in his house, and he is the one who gives them food at the right time. Happy is that servant if his lord comes home and finds him busy doing what he should. Truly, I say to you, he will entrust to him all that is his." Matthew 24:45-47

Amen.



October 4th: Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Blessing of the animals:



***May the Creation bless the Lord
May the sea monsters and everything that moves in the waters bless the Lord,
let them sing to Him and glorify Him forever!
May all the birds of the air bless the Lord
let them sing and glorify Him forever!
Let all the beasts and animals bless the Lord,
let them sing and glorify Him forever!***

Daniel 3:79-81

For ideas and a guide for the blessing of the animals, see this link:

<https://greenchurches.ca/tools/spirituality/activities/>

Hymns resources:

- **Laudato Si (Sun of Peace) by Raoul Mutin (3:55)** ([View YouTube video here](#))
- **Laudato Si (Be praised, God of Creation) by Patrick Richard (5:11)**
([View YouTube video here](#))
- **Prayer to the Creator by Michel Wackenheim (2:08)** ([View YouTube video here](#))

The Cantic of the Creatures



Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, 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 splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

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

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the 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 colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy 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.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve him with great humility.

Francis of Assisi

