



Season of Creation Prayer

September 1 - October 4

From Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

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 this occasion, we wish to offer thanks to the loving Creator for the noble gift of creation and to pledge commitment to its care and preservation for the sake of future generations...An objective of our prayer is to change the way we perceive the world in order to change the way we relate to the world. *(September 1, 2017)*

Leader: Let us pray.

Today we will take the time to come home—to our whole Earth home. Bringing with us the boon of knowledge we have gained over recent years, we will gather here to reflect and remember.

All: We will remember that we belong to the Earth and its wisdom, its rhythms, its cycles, its unfolding processes which are ancient, yet ever new. We will remember to open to the creative forces that flow through everything. We will remember to maintain a sense of reverence by seeing the sacredness in all things. And in that remembering, we will learn how to love.

Sharing around a favorite place in nature for us

Antiphon

Sing: The heavens are telling the glory of God
And all creation is shouting for joy
Come dance in the forest, come play in the fields
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.

"Canticle of the Sun," Marty Haugen

Canticle of Creation

- Side 1:** In the beginning, God,
You alone existed: eternally one
yet pregnant in the fullness of unity.
- Side 2:** Full to overflowing,
You, Mother and Father of all life,
exploded outward in a billion bits and pieces.
- Side 1:** Your words became flesh,
whirling in shining stars, shimmering suns
and in genesis glimmering galaxies.
- Side 2:** You, my God, spoke
and your Words became flesh
in sun and moon, and earth and seas,
mountains and gentle hills,
rolling rivers and silent streams.
- Side 1:** You, my God, spoke,
and your Words became flesh
in winged bird, in deer and elephant,
in grazing cow, racing horse and fish of the deep.
- Side 2:** Your Words, so unique and so varied,
filled the earth also with rabbit, squirrel and ant.
And all your words were beautiful and all were good.
- Side 1:** From each of these holy Words
arose a prayer and adoration
to You, their Creator, and wondrous womb.
- Side 2:** "Praise You," rang out the redwood
"Blest be You," chimed in the cedar.
"Holy are You," prayed the prairie grasses.
- Side 1:** From all four corners of this earth
rose up a chorus of perpetual adoration.
- Side 2:** O Sacred Spirit, O divine Breath of Life,
Unseal my ears that they may ever listen
To the continuous canticle of creation;
Open my heart and my whole self,
to sing in harmony with all its many voices.

Side 1: Teach me to commune with Your first Word made flesh,
Your Creation,
that I may be able to unravel the wondrous words
of your second Word-Made-Flesh, Jesus,
through whom, with whom and in whom
I may see myself as another Word of Yours made flesh,
to your glory and honor.

Author Unknown

Side 2: Amen.

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Reading

“Wild Love for the World”

World as lover, world as self. And it is okay for our hearts to be broken over the world. What else is a heart for? There’s a great intelligence there. We’ve been treating the earth as if it were a supply house and a sewer. We’ve been grabbing, extracting resources from it for our cars and our hair dryers and our bombs, and we’ve been pouring the waste into it until it’s overflowing, but our earth is not a supply house and a sewer. It is our larger body. We breathe it. We taste it. We are it, and it is time now that we venerate that incredible flowering of life that takes every aspect of our physicality.

Joanna Macy as quoted in Becoming Wise by Krista Tippett

Pause for Reflection

What concern about our common home have you recently learned about (or is near your heart) and what is your response to it?

Sharing

Closing Prayer

God of earth, sea, and sky, we indeed praise you and thank you for the wonders of creation. From the dawn of all time to the present you have held the universe in your hands and have shaped everything that has ever come into being. For 15 billion years you have been creating and fashioning the beauty and terror, the light and dark of the universe. As we find ourselves at this moment in time, a time of emerging awareness of the needs and integrity of the whole Earth, we humbly ask forgiveness and guidance for the human. Teach us what our role is in this large Schema of yours and may we respond to the needs of our Earth home with compassion and mercy. This we ask in the name of All That Is.

Amen.

