

Season of Creation 2020 Jubilee for Earth

“

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together ... it unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.

”

- Pope Francis, LS 92



Introduction

The Season of Creation is a time to remember our place in the web of life, to be fully present to the Spirit at the heart of creation, and renew our commitment to be part of healing and restoring Earth.

This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we are awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During this season, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee, a “time of favour” for Earth that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

The Season of Creation unites the world’s 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose: prayer and action for our common home. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

Each week celebrates a particular theme: **Forest, Land, Wilderness/Outback, River and Animals.**

Week 1:

Forest

Forest and the Web of Life

Tuning in to each other and our relationship with forests

Come to quiet and close your eyes.

Become fully present where you are, breathing in and breathing out...

Tune in to the sounds around you and the air flowing into you and then out of you... pay attention for a few moments.

Now place yourself in a forest you remember from an experience in childhood. Remember the sounds, the scents in the air, the textures... Perhaps there is a favourite tree you had a special affection for. Place yourself beside this tree, lean your back against its trunk, and breathe until you feel your breath connecting as one with the energy of the life within this tree. Feel how your lives intertwine. As Thomas Berry says “we are all children of the forest”. Stay here for a moment...

Contemplate: Season of Creation video, Forest



Reflection and sharing:

- How have forests nurtured your spirit?
- How do we see right relationships, for the flourishing of all life, modelled in the forest?

Week 1:

Forest

“Forest Sunday” Litany

Inspired by Psalm 96:12 “All the trees of the forest sing for joy” (adapted from Margie Abbott’s Cosmic Sparks, 2020).

Leader: A planet filled with Divine Presence, quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.

All: All the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Leader: Mountain ash and eucalyptus, quivering ferns and glistening moss!

All: All the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Leader: Huon pines, ironbark, and buttress trees tall timber where lizards and lichen find their home!

All: All the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Leader: Green tree frogs and timid moths ancient owls and swirling bats!

All: All the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Leader: Forests, on behalf of all humanity, we lament thoughtlessness and greed; destruction and pillaging; death of old growth giants and species breathing their last.

All: Aware of Great Mystery our hearts stir with pain and loss.

Leader: “We are children of the forest” – for this we give thanks...Silent pause.

Responding:

Let us make an intention to create an opportunity for a forest walk this week, to become present to the grandeur and also the threats that face a local forest near us.