

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

Week 2:

Land

Land and the Web of Life

By definition, land is the area of Earth's surface that is not covered by water. For billions of years all of life's abundance was restricted to the seas. A vast and bountiful land sat unused until around 530 million years ago, centipede-like animals began to explore the world above water. Somewhere around 430 million years ago, plants colonised the bare earth, creating a land rich in food and resources, while fish evolved from ancestral vertebrates in the sea. It was another 30 million years before those prehistoric fish crawled out of the water and began the evolutionary lineage we sit atop today. It took a long 30 million years or so to develop a body plan, the one we have inherited, fit for walking on land.

Source: <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/science-sushi/evolution-out-of-the-sea/>

Tuning in to each other and our relationship with land

Become very present, silent, still... close your eyes.

Remember a time in your life when you felt close to the land, soil, dirt, earth or ground... place yourself in the moment, tuning into feelings and sensations in that place. Stay here for a few moments.

Contemplate: Season of Creation video, Land



Week 2:

Land

Reflection and Sharing:

- When have I felt a sense of harmony and peace being on land?
- When have I ever felt in danger on land? In the biblical texts, land symbolises heritage, covenant, self-sufficiency, survival, our very being and future legacy. We give thanks for land!

In gratitude for land (words adapted from David Suzuki's The Sacred Balance, 1997)

Leader: Earth, soil, dirt, ground, land: ideas of extraordinary complexity.

All: We remember land.

Leader: Hidden within them is our sense of our origins, our place, our dependence on the soil beneath our feet.

All: We remember land.

Leader: Land denotes place or context – the nation or the region we belong to, as well as the part that belongs to us. We long for dry land, we look for a landing place.

All: We remember land

Leader: Let us take a moment to lament the drying up and the routine poisoning of land, especially agricultural land.

Silent pause...

All: We remember land.

Responding:

Let's set an intention to take a solitary barefoot walk on land nearby, noticing how the sensations of connection to land emerge within us.

What are the increasing demands imposed on land near you or where your food grows? How can we shift our lifestyles to create more healthy, abundant land?