

Season of Creation 2020 Jubilee for Earth

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The messages from the sciences are clear: there is an unfolding dynamism in the universe and in the evolutionary emergence of species; everything is interconnected and interdependent, even to what can be considered kinship relations between the species; and within the interconnectedness, entities retain their distinctive characteristics.

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Mary Tinney RSM,
When Heaven and Earth Embrace 2019, p66

Week 5:

Blessing of the Animals, Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Tuning in to each other and our relationship with animals:

We come together with all creatures in this circle of life, radiant with the divine mystery of love.

Response We celebrate as one!

We awaken to the sacred presence and creative, emergent unfolding in all beings.

Response We celebrate as one!

We continue to open our hearts to the blessings we receive from each one in this great family of relatedness.

Response We celebrate as one!

Contemplation: Season of Creation video: Blessing of the Animals



Reflection and Sharing:

Call to mind or find an image of an animal that draws you into relationship. What are its special characteristics? What, specifically, are the forces threatening its wellbeing?

Week 5:

Blessing of the Animals, Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Blessing of the Animals

Source of all life, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

Response We thank you!
For all the fascination, fun and friendship we have with animals,

Response We thank you!
For all the times we have hurt, neglected or were complicit in the suffering of animals,

Response We are sorry.
For all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

Response We are sorry.
For all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans, fields, towns and cities,

Response We are sorry.
May the animals of Earth be our companions in life and lead us to celebrate our place in the circle of life.

Response Amen

Responding:

A 2019 UN report found that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history. The main cause of the extinctions is the destruction of natural habitats by human activities, such as cutting down forests and converting land into fields for farming.

Meanwhile, the risk of viruses spreading and mutating in large-scale, high-density factory farms is not being adequately monitored. Find out more about the link between treatment of animals and the Coronavirus [here](#).

How can we adjust our lifestyles in response to this challenge?