

COMMUNITY PRAYER 2 SEASON OF CREATION



*Our commitment to the care of our common home is not something optional or a kind of add-on to our faith; instead as Pope Francis continually reminds us, the care of creation is central to our Christian faith.*

***Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (John Rutter) You Tube***

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,  
Over and around us lies  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower;  
Sun and moon and stars of light, sun and moon and stars of light  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise*

*Leader:*

*One of the striking features of the Covid 19 pandemic crisis is the way people turned to nature.*

*Many spent more time in their gardens,  
getting in touch with the life, beauty and complexity of nature.  
Some found themselves within the spiritual shelter of nature  
communing with the Creator of it all.*

*Opening Call to Prayer*

**Leader:**

**O Creator God,**

**Open our eyes and our hearts today to the wonders of your presence among us.**

**May we see the signs of your beauty within and about us and  
ever be in awe of the simple gifts of life.**

**All:**

**Help us to reach beyond ourselves and to give thanks for all of your creation  
that share this universe with us; people of every nation, animals of every species,  
all forms of vegetation, the planets, stars, and all the elements.**

**We pray this in union with the incarnate Word of God  
in whose image all was created. Amen.**

*Our Prayer “Beginners” Denise Levertov (in Choir)*

**But we have only begun  
To love the earth.  
We have only begun  
To imagine the fullness of life.**

**How could we tire of hope?  
so much is in bud.  
How can desire fail?  
we have only begun  
To imagine justice and mercy.  
Only begun to envision**

**How it might be  
To live as siblings with beast and flower  
not as oppressors.**

**Surely our river  
cannot already be hastening  
Into the sea of non being?  
Surely it cannot  
Drag, in the silt,  
all that is innocent?**

**Not yet. not yet -  
there is too much broken  
that must be mended,  
too much hurt we have done to each other  
that cannot yet be forgiven.**

**We have only begun to know  
the power that is in us if we would join  
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.**

**So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture,  
So much is in bud.**

***We Listen to the Word of God***

***Book of Job 12:7-10***

***'But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
Or the birds of the air, and they will tell you.  
Or speak to the earth and it will teach you  
Or let the fish of the sea inform you.  
Which of all these does not know  
That the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In God's hand is the life of every creature  
And the breath of all humankind***

***Gospel (Mark 1:15)***

***And he said to them, Go into the world and proclaim  
the good news to the whole of creation.  
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.***

***Meditation with Meister Eckhart***

**Apprehend God in all things  
for God is in all things  
Every single creature is full of God  
and is a book about God  
Every creature is a word of God.  
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature –  
even a caterpillar - I would never have to prepare a sermon  
So full of God is every creature.**

**Pause for Reflection**  
**While listening to Laudate Dominum**

***Laudate Dominum***  
***YOU TUBE: Laudate Dominum (Mozart) Aksel Rykkvin***

**Laudate Dominum omnes gentes  
Laudate eum, omnes populi  
Quoniam confirmata est  
Super nos misericordia eius,  
Et veritas Domini manet in aeternum.**

**Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper.  
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.**

***Litany of Repentance***

- **Leader: Creator God, we confess that the way we live today is changing the climate of our earth, polluting oceans, rivers and lakes with plastics and destroying the purity of the air we breathe.**  
***Lord have mercy or Kyrie eleison***
  
- **All: We confess O Creator God, that while we eat good food daily, many of your children go to bed hungry. Forgive us for our lack of awareness, our lack of compassion.**  
***Christ have mercy or Christe eleison***
  
- **Leader: We confess the loss of biodiversity irreplaceable and irretrievable, and no longer giving glory to God by its very existence, nor available for the functioning of the earth, human well being , and future generations.**  
***Lord have mercy or Kyrie eleison***
  
- **All: Merciful God, we confess to the times when we failed to appreciate the environmental costs of our food and drink and our lack of support for local food producers.**  
***Christ have mercy or Christe eleison***
  
- **Leader: We confess our inadequate ways of dealing with the world's water. Free us from our misuse and waste of this precious gift.**  
***Lord have mercy or Kyrie eleison.***

*Our Father*

*Final Blessing*

**Bless us, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
as we go forth with joy and hope to care for God's creation,**

- walking gently on the earth,**
- in right relationship,**
- nurtured by your love,**
- taking only what we need,**
- giving back to the earth in gratitude,**
- honoring all with reverence,**
- reconciling and healing,**
- mindful of those who will come after, and of the poor today**

**- recognizing our proper place as part of, not apart from, your creation.**

**Ignite your spark within us,  
that we may know ourselves as truly human and  
irrevocably part of the web of Life. Amen.**

*Blessed Edmund Rice, pray for us.  
Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!*