

COMMUNITY PRAYER

SEASON OF CREATION



The Season of Creation is a monthlong prayerful observance.

It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together.

During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other.

We enter a time of restoration and hope, a Jubilee for our 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. 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.

Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation: Jubilee for the Earth

Opening Prayer

Begin your service by lighting a candle, and setting the space with other natural items that represent the agriculture or wilderness of your local ecology, and open by praying:

Leader

**We gather in the name of the Triune God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!**

All

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

**God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing;
wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.
(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)**

Leader

**We gather in the image of the Creator who is a community of love.
We gather in the name of the Redeemer who reconciles all of creation.
We gather in the presence of the Life Giver who inspires new life and renews it.**

Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:
Oh, praise God! Oh, praise God!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds rich blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow,
Let them God's praise abundant show.
Oh, praise God! Oh, praise God!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, praise God! Oh, praise God!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Laudato si, mi Signor; St Francis of Assisi
Translation: William H. Draper
Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Our Praise Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my Soul!

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

**When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.
You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time
for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of
the forest come creeping out.**

**The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God;
The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.
Then people go out to their work, to their labor until evening.**

**From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal.**

**You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the Earth, wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

**The Earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.
When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

May the awe of our Creator God endure forever! Amen.

Reflection Confession (based on Leviticus 25:1-25)

*We praise you Creator God, for the Earth that sustains life.
Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth,
you open your hand to give all creature food in the proper time.*

In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest.

But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits.

*Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption
are exhausting our world*

*The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the
storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security.*

We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew.

Pause

*Let us take a moment to confess our lack of faith, not loving the Creator God with our whole heart
and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves.*

Word of God (adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: *We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden.*

Response: All

*God of Light, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.
Creator God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

Leader: *Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.*

Response: All

Creator of All, during this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity share what we have been given.

Leader: *Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground. Amen.*

Closing Benediction

May God who established the dance of creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives, our Congregation of Christian Brothers and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation.

(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

***BLESSED EDMUND RICE PRAY FOR US.
LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.***