

Care for Creation: Earth Day Prayer Service

LEADER: Come, let us praise God for the gift of Creation.

READER 1: Psalm 148: 4-13

Let them all praise the LORD'S name; for the LORD commanded and they were created,
Assigned them duties forever, gave them tasks that
will never change.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters
and all deep waters;
You lightning and hail, snow and clouds, storm
winds that fulfill his command;
You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
You animals wild and tame, you creatures that crawl
and fly;
You kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all
who govern on earth;
Young men and women too, old and young alike.



Let them all praise the LORD'S name, for his name alone is exalted, majestic above earth and heaven.

LEADER: We thank God for Creation and for our place within this gift. The teachings of our Church call us to be good stewards of the earth. They call on us to take climate change seriously and to be active in responding to it.

READER 2: A reading from Pope John Paul II, November 22, 2001

“Because the earth was entrusted to human stewardship, the natural world is not just a resource to be exploited but also a reality to be respected and revered as a gift and trust from God. It is the task of human beings to care for, preserve and cultivate the treasures of Creation We must respond to the concerns of scientists about the warming of the global commons; the world's countries must work together, taking the necessary and responsible steps to curb this trend, for the good of all peoples and of Creation itself.”

READER 3: A reading from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2001

“At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both “the human environment” and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God's creation and our responsibility to those who come after us. With these reflections, we seek to offer a word of caution and a plea for genuine dialogue as the United States and other nations face decisions about how best to respond to the challenges of global climate change” (*Global Climate Change, A Plea for Dialogue*).



PRAYER SERVICE

Reader 4: A reading from Pope Benedict XVI, 2010

“Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change, desertification, the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of rivers and aquifers, the loss of biodiversity, the increase of natural catastrophes and the deforestation of equatorial and tropical regions? We are all responsible for the protection and care of the environment. It is important for everyone to be committed at his or her proper level, working to overcome the prevalence of particular interests. Concern for the environment calls for a broad global vision of the world; a responsible common effort to move beyond approaches based on selfish nationalistic interests towards a vision constantly open to the needs of all peoples. The deterioration of any one part of the planet affects us all” (2010 *World Day of Peace Message*).

LEADER: Let us pray: For the many times we displayed a lack of concern for the environment,

ALL: Lord, forgive us and have mercy on us.

LEADER: For our misuse of the environment because of greed and gain,

ALL: Lord, forgive us and have mercy on us.

LEADER: For the lack of vision that prevented our leadership from working together for the common environmental good,

ALL: Lord, forgive us and have mercy on us.

LEADER: May the Lord forgive us and guide us to become responsible stewards of Creation, aware of what is happening to the earth, and ready to act and advocate for the good of this entire planet. May our praises to God for the gift of Creation energize us to see, reflect, and act.

ALL: Creator God, we praise you for the grandeur of the universe.
We praise you for the gift of this Earth.
We praise you for the land, and we praise you for the seas.
We praise you for the great miracle of teeming life on our prolific planet.
We praise you for the cycle of growth and for the beauty of the Spring.
We praise you green growth of summer and for the holy harvest in the Fall.
We praise you for the infinity of different creatures on the land and in the sea,
each unique in its own way,
each fitting into the complex ecosystems you have gifted us with,
each dependent on each other and the whole.
We praise you, our Creator.
Grace us with a sense of our responsibilities
To preserve and protect your precious gift,
This Garden, this Earth.

LEADER: We praise you again and again, Creator God, and we thus we offer you our hearts and hands for the preservation of your Creation. Amen.



Center of
Concern