

Prayer Service in Contemplation of Earth Day

Gathering Prayer: Live Simply

Linda Jones CAFOD

Compassionate and loving God,

you created the world for all of us to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply,
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Creator God,

You gave us responsibility for the earth, a
world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably, so
that those who follow after us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice,

You give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your
wisdom. Create in us a desire to act in
solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free.

Amen.

Scripture Passage: Genesis 1:1-28



Video Meditation:

Paul Winter and Diane Burko

Follow the link: ["Stain-glass Morning"](#)

Reflection: Laudato Si'

Pope Francis

11. "Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all

creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason." His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists..."

"...If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously."

Excerpt from the encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, from Pope Francis

Questions for Reflection:

- What in your daily landscape inspires awe and wonder?
- How have you experienced loss in your community from the mistreatment of our common home?
- In what ways are you called to care for God's creation?

Creed: A livesimply creed

Written by a group of CAFOD volunteers

We believe...

We believe in God who gave us a world to share in friendship, equality and peace.

We believe in God who created all people and our world out of love. We recognise that the world is unequal and unjust and that we are individually and collectively responsible for being good stewards and for working with hope and love to restore God's kingdom on earth.

We believe in Christ, living, suffering, dying and rising, the life force in the whole of creation.

We believe in one world, one people, fed from one table.

We believe that we are all vital parts of Christ's body, reflecting his love, by and through our actions, compassion, attitudes and choices.

We believe we are God's instruments through which by faith, prayer and action we will change the world.

We believe in a God of love, who calls all of us to listen to each other, to actively share and treat each other as equals in humility and hope.

We believe that within God's circle of love, faith and trust we all share in a worldwide hunger for justice as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Loving God, creator of the Universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we offer our petitions in the name of all creation.

Our response is **"Creator God, hear our prayer"**

That in the midst of our ecological crisis, we pray that people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

That we as communities and individuals grow in awareness of how our use of energy and the burning of fossil fuel is destroying our planet, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

That we have the wisdom to choose ways of living which are good for the climate; the needs of future generations; and the health of the Earth, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

That the Spirit of God deepen our awareness of the nobility and duty of caring for creation through small daily acts, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

That the poor, who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, may be recognized as sisters and brother with dignity by those contributing the most to climate change, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

That all may be inspired by the example of St. Francis to make lifestyle choices that are selfless and sustainable, promote the care and safeguarding of ecosystems, guarantee access to all basic resources, and encourage practices that respect the fundamental rights of the human person and of every creature, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

That we who participate in the Eucharist, offering God the gifts that earth has given and human hands have made, may be ready and willing to respond to God's word that calls us to be prophets of a creation made new in the Passover of Jesus, let us pray:

Creator God, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer: "Canticle of the Sun"

St. Francis of Assisi

We praise you, Lord, for all your creatures, especially for Brother Sun, who is the day through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor. Of you Most High, he bears your likeness.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars. In the heavens you have made them bright, precious, and fair.

We praise you, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air, fair and stormy, and all weather's moods, by which you cherish all that you have made.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious, and pure.

We praise you, Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you light the night. He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Earth, who sustains us with her fruits, colored flowers, and herbs.

We praise and bless you, Lord, and give you thanks, and serve you in all humility.

Excerpt from "Canticle of the Sun" by St. Francis of Assisi

Sending Forth Song:

Follow the link: ["Mystery" Missa Gaia/Earth Mass, Paul Winter](#)



DIANE BURKO
THE INTERSECTION OF ART
& THE ENVIRONMENT

