

# Season of Creation 2022



*The Burning Bush*

***Listen to the  
Voice of Creation***  
**SEASON OF CREATION 2022**

"If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to wonder at it. People would walk around it marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between. People would marvel at the bumps on it and the holes in it. They would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface and at the creatures in the water. They would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives would be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter" ... Joe Miller 1975



Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for the worldwide celebration of prayer and action to restore our common home. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to honour our common home and all beings who share it.

The burning bush is the ***Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022***. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires is a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable on our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. The flame revealed God's presence. The fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us.

In our Season of Creation, this symbol calls us to listen to creation's voice, to the voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change, to the voices of those who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are voices of the Earth. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other "for we know that things can change!" (Laudato Si, 13). "We need to pray always, even when everything seems in vain, when God appears to be deaf and mute and it seems we are wasting our time. Even if heaven is overshadowed, the Christian does not stop praying". (Pope Francis Aug 13, 2022)



Pope Francis' message for the 2022 *Season of Creation* is that we take time "to pray in the great cathedral of creation, enjoying the "grand cosmic choir" of innumerable creatures singing praise to God.

"Glance at the sun. See the moon and stars. Gaze at the beauty of Earth's greenings. Now think what delight God gives to humankind. But we are to work with it. For without it we cannot survive". (Hildegard of Bingen)

***Hymn: Mother earth, our mother birthing***

***Tune: Praise my soul, the king of Heaven***

Mother Earth, our mother birthing  
Ev'ry creature from the ground.  
Jesus too was flesh and breathing,  
Kin to all that's green and brown.  
Celebrate with all creation:  
God is in the web of life.

Sister Air, our sister lifting  
Ev'ry creature born with wing;  
Jesus shared the breath of forests,  
Breath that makes our spirits sing.  
Celebrate with all creation:  
God is in the web of life.

Brother Water, brother pulsing  
Deep through ev'ry vein and sea,  
Jesus drank the very raindrops  
For our wine and in our tea.  
Celebrate with all creation:  
God's is here in all of life.

Father Fire, our father burning  
With the sacred urge to live.  
Jesus' death completes the cycle,  
Bringing life beyond the grave.  
Celebrate with all creation:  
God is here in all of life.

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#### Psalm 148

***Antiphon: Let us praise the name of the Lord***

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all you his hosts.  
Praise him, sun and moon, praise him all you shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created,  
Assigned them their station forever, set an order that will never change.  
Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all the deeps of the sea,  
Lightning and hail, snow and clouds, storm wind that fulfils his word.

Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars,  
Animals wild and tame, creatures that crawl and birds that fly,  
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all who govern on earth,  
Young men and women, old and young alike.

Let us praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted,  
His majesty is above heaven and earth.  
Glory be....

***Antiphon: Let us praise the name of the Lord***

Psalm 8 **Antiphon: Lord, how great is your name in all the earth!**

When I look at the heavens, the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars, which you established.

Who are we that that you should keep us in mind.

human beings that you care for us?

You have made us little less than the angels,

You crowned us with glory and honour.

You entrust us with the works of your hands,  
to care for all your creatures.

Glory be.....

**Antiphon: LORD, how great is your name in all the earth!**

**Magnificat**

### **Reading**

"God writes the *Gospel*, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, in the flowers, and clouds and stars. (M.Luther). It is sheer vandalism not to preserve the diverse eco-systems of the Earth. We are the first generation that can irreversibly transform our Planet for the worse. We are also the last generation with the capacity to make the changes necessary to avert environmental disaster. Will we choose a path which provides a rich and sustainable heritage for those coming after us or well we leave the Earth a wasteland?

"For we know that things can change" (Ls 13) Pope Francis urges us to undergo an *Ecological Conversion*. This is a "transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, each other, and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture communion, thereby healing and renewing our common home."

### **Intercessions**

Creator God, You call us to keep this Earth in ways that honour the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life. But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony with Earth's capacity to heal herself. Habitats are destroyed and species are lost. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean deeps once teemed with life and relationships, now wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a place to find a home to raise their young. We know that the way we live today is changing the climate, the seas,

and the balance of life, dispossessing the poor and future generations. Help us to recognise that our relationships are broken, and the planet's ecosystems are fractured. Creator God, inspire us to find ways to heal ourselves and the planet.  
**Lord have mercy...**

Creator God, we see that the whole of creation is struggling with changing conditions and our communities are fragmented by inequality and division. Help us to recognise that our lifestyles threaten the livelihood of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens of the world. We pray that we may recognise our responsibility to seek global justice so that all citizens of the world may live in justice and peace.  
**Lord have mercy...**

Gracious Lord, we pray for the healing of our wounded planet and for all those whose lives, livelihoods and habitats are being devastated by climate change. Lord God, in the lives we lead and the choices we make help us to be mindful of our impact on the world and its people, on creatures near and far, now and in future generations. **Lord hear us...**

At this time in human history, we are mindful that the survival of our planet and the well-being of humanity is threatened. We pray that UN Agreements to reduce global warming and to care for the poor will be honoured by governments throughout the world. Give courage to world leaders as they meet in the coming months to make crucial decisions to help heal our common home. **Lord hear us...**

Lord God, we pray that we may gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all that you have created. As we journey through our Synodal process, help us to listen to the voice of creation, to acknowledge how deeply interconnected we are with each other and with the natural world. **Lord hear us...**

Let us pray for each other at this time that we may live the vision and values of Pope Francis' encyclical *On Care for our Common Home*. In particular we pray for greater attention to social justice, climate justice, and intergenerational justice.  
**Lord hear us,**

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the Sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is the rule of nature. We are born to look out for each other. Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."  
(Pope Francis).

"God has written a precious book whose letters are the multitude of things present in the Universe". (LS 85)

Climate change and environmental degradation are the results of the choices that individuals have made in their personal lifestyles and governments have made in their choices around economics and technology.

Our individual choices **do** make a difference - and when these small changes are networked with multitudes of others, they can lead to transformational change. The voice of faith is vital in the current ecological crisis, because we know that our prayers and actions do make a difference.

**Together** we pray a prayer of *Gratitude* for the Earth:

For the marvellous grace of your creation, we pour out our thanks to you Lord. For the sun and moon and stars, For rain and dew and winds, For winter cold and summer heat. We praise you for mountains and hills, For springs and valleys, For rivers and seas. We praise you, for plants growing in the earth and in water, for life inhabiting lakes and seas, for life creeping in the soil and on land, for creatures living in wetlands and waters, for life flying above earth and sea, for beasts dwelling in woods and fields. How many and how wonderful are your works, Creator God!

God created each of us and didn't make any mistakes. Everyone can play a part in the protection and restoration of Our Common Home. Our lives will not be measured by the big things we do but by the little steps we take to make a difference. Each day during the Season of Creation let us take **one** step, do **one** thing and together we will change the world!



**Concluding Prayer together. A Franciscan Blessing**

May God bless us with **discomfort** at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts. May God bless us with **anger** at injustice and oppression, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with **tears** to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, war and loss of hope, so that we may reach out to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may God bless us with enough belief that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all living beings. Amen.

