



Season of Creation

To hope and act with Creation

WEEK ONE - September 1 - 7

Pray: Eternal God, the whole world is full of your glory. We bear forth the anguish of Creation in the time of the climate crisis to you. In your grace, grant us the opportunity to do good, as your created co-creators.

Read: Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reflect: How can I spark hope today in myself and others? “You don’t see hope. It’s like a seed; you have to be patient and nurture it with water to make it grow. If you don’t include hope, the seed might not grow. We know sometimes the seed might die, but hope reminds us to keep planting other seeds.” Take a few moments to reflect on your lifestyle: Am I more aware today of how my actions effect the care I should be giving for creation? Have I done at least one thing today with awareness of the sacredness of creation?

Act: Bring something from nature to decorate your house during the Season and reflect on its beauty.

Remember: The Spirit is the one guiding our ecological conversion, leading us deeper into the comprehension of being a cosmic family.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, power of courage and self-control, you speak to our consciences. We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us. Comfort us when we suffer and are plagued by anxiety. Make us worry when we are numb in the calmness of complacency. Re-create us to become what we are: one humanity under the same sky. We ask this in humility and simplicity. Amen.

WEEK TWO – September 8 – 14

Pray: *Come, let us worship God, who gifted us with life and Creation to sustain life. We praise God for the wondrous Creation.*

Read: Luke 12:22-31

And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

Reflect: *Seeking ecological conversion, have I listened more closely to the cries of the poor? What experience in the last month has brought me closer to acknowledging that my lifestyle actions can harm those I serve? How have the people I serve taught me about the need to care for the earth?*

Act: *Compose and write down a personal prayer for ecological conversion.*

Remember: *In Christ, we are called not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.*

Prayer:

God of the land, the sea, the sky: Creator of all that is seen and unseen. Open our hearts to the rhythm of Creation in the swells of the ocean, the movements of air and wind, the breath of all living things. Open our eyes to the fragile beauty of the biodiversity of which we are a part. Open our ears to the sounds of life around us, especially the sounds that are the cries of the poor. Open our minds to the awareness of our deep relationship with all your Creation. We ask this with hope and expectation. Amen.

WEEK THREE – September 15 - 21

Pray: *May God who can set Creation free, show us his glory.*

Read: Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Reflect: *Take a few minutes to reflect on the reading from Isaiah and share your thoughts with someone on the importance of celebrating a Season of Creation.*

Act: *September 21 is scheduled as the global day of action for individuals, communities, organizations, and all levels of government to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). The Treaty brings together nations, civil society, and faith groups to reduce fossil fuel use. According to their website, “The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to renewable energy for everyone, end the expansion of coal, oil, and gas, and equitably phase out existing production in keeping with what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis.” Do some research and find ways to support the Treaty.*

Remember: *Every effort helps people of faith understand the need to phase out fossil fuels and engage in the campaign for the FFNPT, raising awareness is crucial.*

Prayer:

God of Light, Life and Love: Help us to seek and find your presence in all Creation. Help us to understand the roots of the ecological crisis and give us the wisdom to live resiliently in harmony with your Creation. Keep us firm in the faith that the gift of life in all its fullness is for all Creation. Help us to maintain hope that your reign of love is manifested in our common love for you, for ourselves, and for our neighbor - both human and non-human. We ask this in your light and love. Amen.

WEEK FOUR– September 22 - 28

Pray: *Come, let us follow Lord Jesus Christ, who inspires us to hope and act for justice and righteousness. We give glory to God, who restores the groaning Creation and the vulnerable.*

Read: Matthew 9:35-38

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Reflect: *What one change can you make this month to reduce your harm to the earth and those living in poverty throughout the world? How does hope for the future impact what we do today?*

Act: *Follow through on your commitment to bring about ecological conversion in your mind and heart.*

Remember: *Our intention is to live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation.*

Prayer:

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection. May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom. We ask this with gratitude and love, Amen.

WEEK FIVE – September 29 – October 4

Pray: *Come let us move with the Holy Spirit, striving to establish justice and produce the first fruits of hope. We praise God for the abundant life that is assured to all Creation.*

Read: Cantic of Creatures (selected verses)

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through which you give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs . . .

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.

Reflect: *What about the Cantic inspires you? Does it help you to be more in tune with creation?*

Act: *Say a special prayer at mealtimes of gratitude for the gifts we are given by Creation's fruitfulness.*

Remember: *The African wisdom of Ubuntu teaches us that the sense of self is shaped by relationships with others. It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a cosmic family to care for Creation. I am because we are, the same goes with Creation. We are nature, nature is us, we are God's hands for global and cosmic justice.*

Prayer:

God of truth and justice: Fill us with your spirit of compassion so we may live and act with and in solidarity with Creation. Guide us in paths of righteousness that help us to tread softly on the land and sail gently on the sea. Give us wisdom and courage to recognize our role in the evil of systemic exploitation and extraction and to speak truth to power. Give us strength of heart and arm to be agents of the ecological conversion the world so desperately needs. Amen.

From *The Season of Creation Celebration Guide*

