

## A week of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Lord, grant us a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources; encourage us to be responsible stewards of our creation.

*Lord make us prophets of our time*

Matthew's Gospel tells us that any discussion about the Eucharist or attempt to live out the Christian message that does not respond to the hungry is at variance with the works of Jesus:

*'For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when thirsty you gave me drink (Matt.25:35).'*

The Eucharist is an opportunity to give thanks for all of God's blessings. The bread and wine which become the Body and Blood of Christ unite us and him to all creation, so that each Eucharist should be a challenge to us to change political and economic structures which enslave huge segments of humanity and destroy the Earth.

*Sean McDonagh 'To Care for the Earth'*

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth (Psalm 104.30)

### Day 2

Lord, pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty

*Lord make us prophets of our time*

It is not enough to think of different species merely as potential resources to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity.

Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

*Pope Francis Laudato Si' #33*

God by whom our fragile earth is blessed,  
Make us servants of your creation,  
Respecting and protecting all that you have made.

Teach us the joy of the field and flower,  
The splendour of forest and tree,  
The grandeur of ocean and river.  
Make us yearn for what points us to benevolence,  
walking gently on the earth and holding all in trust for future generations

*Anne Marie Coppock*

### Day 3

Lord, allow my ears to listen to the cry of the earth, the voices of the people of the south, those who face the harsh reality of climate change

*Lord make us prophets of our time*

Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a "universal fraternity".

*Pope Francis Laudato Si' #228*

God is the foundation for everything  
This God undertakes, God gives.  
Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.  
Now humankind needs a body that at all times honours and praises God.  
This body is supported in every way through the earth.  
Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

*Hildegard of Bingen*

### Day 4

Lord, grant us a spirit of truth to recognise failings, which have hurt us, others and the world.

Give us the humility to ask forgiveness for our part in any wrong-doing.

*Lord make us prophets of our time*

"A sense of communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings..... Everything is connected.....

Concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society."

*Pope Francis Laudato Si' #91*

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Day 5

Lord, Grant us a spirit of openness to see God within and around us; Help us rejoice in the good we have experienced as we move forward to the future; Help us use our senses to celebrate beauty and creativity in the world.

*Lord make us prophets of our time*

For God brought things into being in order that his goodness might be communicated to creatures and be represented by them. And because his goodness could not be adequately represented by any one creature, he produced many and diverse creatures, so that what one lacked, in manifesting the divine goodness, would be supplied by another. For goodness, which in God is simple and uniform, in creatures is manifold and divided. And hence, the whole cosmos participates in the divine goodness more perfectly and represents it better, that any single creatures whatever.

*Thomas Aquinas ST Ptl Q47 A1*

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Day 6

Lord, allow my hands to care for the Earth, to toil, to reap, to celebrate  
*Lord make us prophets of our time*

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil  
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?  
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;  
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;  
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went,  
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

*Gerard Manley Hopkins*

Day 7

Lord, help us become advocates of peace, bringing an end to conflict and division; Renew our commitment to challenging the causes of injustice.

*Lord make us prophets of our time*

“It is evident that many wars are fought over resources which are now becoming increasingly scarce. If we conserved our resources better, fighting over them would not then occur, protecting the global environment is directly related to securing peace. We move from self to others, from ‘my issue’ to ‘our issues’, from home to communities, from national level to global. Now we embrace the concepts of our common home and future.”

*Wangari Matthai (1940-2011)  
Environmental campaigner*

Hail Mary, full of grace.  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

Day 8

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings. To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, of You Most High, he bears the likeness. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure. 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 our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs. Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned. Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, And serve Him with great humility.

*St. Francis of Assisi-Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon*

