



SEASON OF CREATION



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

Listen to the Voice of Creation

September 1 – October 4, 2022

The image of the burning bush comes from Exodus 3: “The LORD appeared to (Moses) as fire flaming out of a bush. [A]lthough the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed.” (Ex. 3:2) The name of this God whose flaming presence does not consume the bush may continue to be a mystery, but God’s agenda is clear. God hears the cry of slaves and their suffering (3:7, 9), and promises to rescue them and give them a new life. Let the Burning Bush kindle our hope for rescue and freedom on our journey to reclaim the earth for future generations and rescue those at immediate risk from the effects of climate change.

PRAYER

(Insert in bulletin with invitation for personal, family, faith group, meetings prayer during Season of Creation)

Creator of All, from your communion of love, your Word went forth singing a symphony of life that sings your praise! By your Holy Wisdom you made Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being! You call us to keep your garden. You create us in relationship with creation so that we can listen and learn from their voices how to safeguard the conditions for life.

So often, we turn in on ourselves. We close our ears to your Word calling to us through creation and the Scriptures.

We lament and grieve the loss of species, their habitats and human cultures that have perished because of our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory. Fill us with hope to quench the fires of injustice with your healing love. Enlighten us to follow Christ in walking lightly on this holy ground.

This we ask In the name of the One who comes proclaiming good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGIES

Environment: Creation of a burning bush (in the front of church or outside).

Narthex of Church: Long red ribbons with markers: All are invited during the homily and/or the dismissal comment of the liturgies to “listen to the voice of creation” and write a word or phrase of some creature in need of our prayer, compassion and action (Great Lakes, Indigenous People, Pollinators-bees and butterflies, people of color, people suffering food insecurity, trees. . .) These ribbons are then tied onto the branches of a bush or tree in the front of church or outside the church.

Students in school, religious ed, teens and Liturgy of the Word for children are invited to do the same. Ministers of Care take to homebound and nursing homes for those visited to write on ribbon and return to be tied on bush. Each week the invitation is extended to increase our commitment to Listen to the Voice of Creation, pray and act for those in creation needing our compassion. For more information and ideas, see the Celebration Guide: **SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf (seasonofcreation.org)**.

Songs: September 1 – October 4 Themes: Creation and Listening (suggestions listed below).

Penitential Act: Using the format of form three, create acclamations using phrases from your parish burning bush or the Prayer for Season of Creation (long or short form). For example: Lord Jesus, you are the voice of creation, Lord have mercy; You will renew the face of the earth, Christ have mercy, etc.

SUNDAY HOMILIES

Preaching for God's World (preachingforgodsworld.org) This ecumenical resource is especially helpful for preaching on the Sunday Gospel and second reading during the Season of Creation.

Preaching with the Sciences - Catholic Theological Union (ctu.edu) These homily outlines highlight some of the ways sciences and the contemporary search for religious meaning can interface.

INTERCESSIONS

Include phrases from your burning bush or from the prayer for Season of Creation (long form), or draw from the following examples:

- **chausa.org/docs/default-source/general-files/a2271fa655ec4213a122edf89f15ce3c1-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=0**
- **anglicanprayer.org/index.php/prayers-for-sustainable-development**
- **slife.org/prayers-for-the-environment**

Intercessions for the Climate and Environment

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made.
Lord, in your mercy...

SUGGESTED MUSIC

- Abundant Life (text: Ruth Duck, music: Marty Haugen, GIA)
- All You Works of God (Marty Haugen, GIA)
- Canticle of the Sun (Marty Haugen, GIA)
- Canticle of the Turning (Rory Cooney, GIA)
- Change Our Hearts (Rory Cooney, GIA)
- For the Beauty of the Earth (Text and music: public domain)
- Holy Fire (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/holy-fire
- I am Standing on Holy Ground (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/i-am-standing-on-holy-ground
- Laudato Si'! Be Praised, O God! (Ricky Manalo, OCP)
- Maker of Galaxies (text: Delores Dufner, OSB, GIA)
- May We Become the Compassion of God (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/may-we-become-the-compassion-of-god
- Morning Has Broken (Text: Eleanor Farjeon)
- One Small Voice (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/one-small-voice
- Tapestry of Justice (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/tapestry-of-justice
- Tend the Ground (Curtis Stephan, OCP)
- Touch the Earth (Kathy Sherman, CSJ)
ministryofthearts.org/art/touch-the-earth
- Touch the Earth Lightly (text: Shirley Erena Murray, Hope)
- When I Gaze on Creation (text: Delores Dufner, OSB, GIA)

SEASON OF CREATION GUIDE

Suggestions for Encouraging Sustainable Living, Action, Advocacy and Participation in Campaigns that Call for Ecological Restoration: **[SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf](#)**
(seasonofcreation.org)

CLASSROOM PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- **Season of Creation for Grades 1–5**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 1**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 2**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 3**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 4**
- **Season of Creation for Grades 6–12 Week 5**