

# Care of Creation Commitment Prayer

*Adapted from the Message of the Holy Father Francis for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, May 25, 2023*

**ALL:** “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (Amos 5:24)

**Leader:** Creator God, you want justice to flow forth wherever it is needed. You want us to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to your laws and enable life to flourish.

**All:** For only then can justice and peace flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

**Leader:** Immersed in your creation, we also sense the maternal heartbeat of the earth. In order to grow as people, we need to harmonize our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life.

**All:** Creator God, help us dwell on your heartbeat, the heartbeat of all humanity, and the heartbeat of creation. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are prevented from drinking from that mighty river.

**Leader:** You call us to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.

**All:** The effects of this war can be seen in the many rivers that are drying up. Consumerist greed, fueled by selfish hearts, is disrupting the planet’s water cycle. The unrestrained burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests are pushing temperatures higher and leading to massive droughts. Alarming water shortages increasingly affect both small rural communities and large cities. Predatory industries are depleting and polluting our freshwater sources through extreme practices such as fracking for oil and gas extraction, unchecked mega-mining projects, and intensive animal farming. “Sister Water”, in the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, is pillaged and turned into “a commodity subject to the laws of the market”.



**Leader:** We can, and we must prevent the worst from happening by coming together like so many streams, brooks, and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvelous planet and our human family for generations to come.

**All:**

- **We commit** to join hands and *take bold steps* to “Let Justice and Peace Flow” throughout our world, and to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life.
- **We commit** to join the mighty river by transforming our *hearts* so as to renew our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from you, our Creator.
- **We commit** to add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our *lifestyles* and repenting of our “ecological sins”.
- **We commit** to adopt lifestyles marked by *less waste* and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable.
- **We commit** to cooperate in your ongoing creation through *positive choices*: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.
- **We commit** to transform the *public policies* that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow so that the mighty river may continue flowing.
- **We commit** to *raise our voices* to halt this *injustice* towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change.

**Leader:** As followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, we will live, work, and pray that our common home will teem with life once again.

**All:** May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth”.

**Leader:** Go in peace, serving Christ and loving God’s creation!

**All:** We go in peace, serving Christ and tending God’s creation!

**Leader:** You are invited to share Christ’s peace with one another as you leave.



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