

# Creation and the Gaze of Jesus

## A Lenten Way of the Cross

Offered by the Laudato Si' Circle: a Creation Care Team at  
St. Patrick's Church, Pelham, NH

Feb. 2025

# Continuing Your Pilgrimage at Home

## A Contemplative Walk with the Laudato Si' Chaplet

Back at home, consider taking a walk. It could be in your backyard, your neighborhood, or another favorite place in the natural world. Give yourself some silence and enough time to reflect on this ecological Way of the Cross that you may have just participated in. This “retreat” is for you to think about your relationship with God, yourself, your neighbor, and Creation.

Try to pay attention to even the smallest detail of nature ... sounds, smells, colors, textures. Walk in gratitude for these gifts of God's love. Pray the *Laudato Si' Chaplet*, inspired by St. Francis of Assisi's Canticum of the Creatures and developed by the Laudato Si' Movement.

### Laudato Si' Chaplet

Praise be to you O Lord through Brother Air (10 x)  
*Glory Be and/or Laudato Si' Mi Signore refrain*  
Praise be to you O Lord through Sister Water (10 x)  
*Glory Be and/or Laudato Si' Mi Signore refrain*  
Praise be to you O Lord through Brother Fire and Sun (10 x)  
*Glory Be and/or Laudato Si' Mi Signore refrain*  
Praise be to you O Lord through our Sister Mother Earth (10 x)  
Praise be to you O Lord through all that you have Created (10 x)  
*Glory Be and/or Laudato Si' Mi Signore refrain*  
Thank you, Lord, for all that you have given us.  
Thank you, Lord for Your great gifts of love and sacrifice on the cross.



### This Way of the Cross was inspired by and adapted from:

1. *Ecological Way of the Cross, Lent 2022*, Adapted from St. Eugene Parish Care of Creation Ministry Asheville, North Carolina “Way of the Cross in the Mountains.” Used with permission in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis
2. *Laudato Si' Reflections: Study Guide and Stations of the Cross*, Trocaire, Dublin, Ireland
3. *Way of the Cross: Share Lent 2022 issues facing communities in the Global South affected by climate change*. Office of Development and Peace, Caritas Canada
4. *Stations of the Cross in the light of Laudato Si'*, JPIC Commission, USG – UISG

### For more information about the work of our Laudato Si' Circle contact:

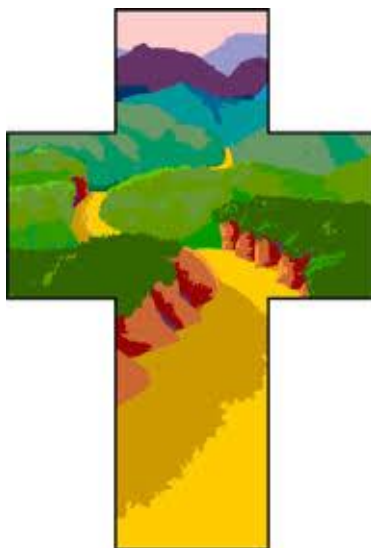
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Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org>

Ignatian Solidarity Network: <https://ignatiansolidarity.net>

**We thank Rev. Volney DeRosia, former pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Pelham, NH, for his support and guidance with this Way of the Cross and our Creation Care initiatives. In prayer we dedicate this to the memory of Walter Bacigalupo, co-founder of St. Patrick's Laudato Si' Circle.**



## Welcome and Background

Welcome everyone to *Creation and the Gaze of Jesus: a Lenten Way of the Cross!*

This Way of the Cross is informed by two major documents:

The first is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* regarding Creation.

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_P19.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P19.HTM)

*For each one of the works of His Creation, ... God saw that it was good. ... Each ... reflects in its own way, a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment. **Catechism of the Catholic Church 339.***

The second is, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, the pastoral letter of Pope Francis. <https://www.usccb.org/offices/general-secretariat/laudato-si-care-our-common-home>. Pope Francis welcomes us to this spiritual work when he says,

*The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know things can change ... I appeal ... for new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of the planet. We need a conversation that includes everyone ...” **LSi 13, 14***

While your time with the *Gaze of Jesus* begins here at St. Patrick's, please consider using this guide to continue that journey of seeing, reflecting, praying, and acting at home.



# The Legacy of St. Francis of Assisi

From the *Way of the Cross in the Mountains* by St. Eugene's Catholic Church, Asheville, North Carolina

As we start this journey, let's begin with the work and words of St. Francis of Assisi. The Way of the Cross can be traced to St. Francis of Assisi, who lived at a time when Christian pilgrims could not travel safely to the Holy Land. Francis brought the experience of the Holy Land home, as we bring the Way of the Cross home to our local place of community and beauty. St. Francis praises God through Creation, saying

*"LAUDATO SI' Mi Signore" – "Praise be to you, My Lord".*

*In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs." LSi' 1*

While we walk with the sufferings of Jesus at each station, we raise the Cross of Christ to remind us that the Earth belongs to God and we ask for strength and unity that our hearts be opened to the need to care for Creation ... God's great gift of love and suffering.



The St. Francis and Friends collection by artist Sue Betanzos are commissioned pet portrait glass paintings. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and nature. Each painting is a whimsical picture poem of loving relationships with nature, pets and St. Francis. Contact [SueBetanzos.com](http://SueBetanzos.com) for information.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Station: Jesus Is Innocent, But Condemned to Death (The Earth and Innocents Suffer)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*Pilate said to them: What shall I do then with Jesus that is called Christ? They all said: Let him be crucified. Mathew 27:22*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Jesus was an innocent person condemned to death. He was abandoned and left to face his death alone. Our common home, the Earth, is also being condemned. We were present in the Creator's mind and heart, even before our ancient lakes, mountains, rivers and oceans were formed. We are part of the earth itself, yet we disregard these gifts that we think of as common, ordinary and plentiful. We throw away because there is always more. We burn, discard and waste until the scarcity is before our eyes, it is only then that we recognize God's resource as gifts and condemn ourselves to shortages, fear, and inequity.

### **Laudato Si':**

*This sister, (earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her ... the Earth itself, burdened and laid waste, is the most abandoned and mistreated among the poor LS 2*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us Pray.

**All:** Creator God you gave us Creation out of your great love for us – a creation filled with all the things that we and all of the living world need to survive. Jesus was your gift to us as well, the light of the world who has come to redeem us. Forgive the harm that we have brought to this world and help us come to understand the full value of your generosity and your love, both so necessary to sustain us.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Station: Jesus Takes Up the Cross (We Are Called to Hear the Cry)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*And carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to that place that is called the Place of the Skull. John 19:17*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Just as Jesus embraced his cross, we are called by God to take up the work of tilling, keeping, and protecting the Earth. Our own poor choices for land and water use or our excessive buying habits contribute to the damage of the Earth. Forever lost will be our vital water supplies or communities of plants and animals valuable in and of themselves. There are those who have shouldered the protection of God's gifts – environmental educators, scientists, writers, artists, parents, neighbors, and children each in their own way have dedicated their souls and, in some cases, their very lives to protect the Earth.

### **Laudato Si':**

*Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.*  
*LS 14*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Lord Jesus, the good Earth is, like you, suffering from our sins of thoughtlessness, wastefulness and our unwillingness to be inconvenienced. We pray for the grace to be aware of our shortcomings and to be responsible dwellers on this beautiful planet Earth. Help strengthen our resolve to approach this work with joy and purpose to honor Creation - God's great gift of love and sacrifice.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time** **(Hear the Cry of the Earth)**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Leader: We Praise you O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

#### **Scripture:**

*Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted ... But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities ... Isaiah 53: 4-5*

#### **Reflection/Meditation:**

The many hours before his crucifixion were filled with the agony of the loss of his apostles including the lies and betrayal by one he loved, the beatings, the derision, the crowning of thorns. The burden is too great and he falls. Likewise, the Earth and all of Creation is suffering from the burden of our misuse. Pollution, deforestation, rising global temperatures, drought wildfires, changing sea levels and loss of biodiversity are all issues facing the Earth. And while God has created our common home with resilience, there are thresholds of abuse from which Earth cannot easily recover.

#### **Laudato Si':**

*This sister (earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. LS 2*  
*Creation has an 'an intrinsic value' which is 'independent of (its) usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself. LS 140*

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Leader: Let Us Pray.

All: Gracious Spirit, help us to see the intrinsic worth and dignity of even the smallest of God's creatures. Let us come to understand the critical important of biodiversity in our Earth systems, that all things are interconnected, and how fragile is this web of life and resources. Bring us to enlightenment regarding our role as stewards of Creation, God's great gift of love.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus Meets His Mother (Mother Earth the Cradle of Life)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, “This Child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against ... And a Sword will pierce your own soul too.” Luke 2:35*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Mary bravely approached her wounded Son with love and compassion while holding her immeasurable pain and suffering. Mary loved Jesus as God loves us and his Creation. Yet our collective choices have harmed this our common home. Can we bravely face and acknowledge our great sorrows over the loss of biodiversity, the cancer deaths caused by polluted water or air, or the suffering of migrants forced to flee drought and famine? Embracing that knowledge can stir us into action. Like Mary, will we try to accept the challenge to do God’s will for Creation? Will we be willing to work to protect the Earth, no matter how inconvenient, painful or difficult?

### **Laudato Si’:**

*Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world ... she is the Woman, ‘clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars (REV 12:1).’ Carried up to heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation ... we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom. LS 241*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Precious Jesus, with hearts moved by the sorrow of a mother for her son, help us soften our hearts to see and remember the grievous offences wrought on the Mother Earth that is our home and that provides all that we need to survive. Mother Mary help us to make better choices that protect Creation, the home we share with the animals and plants of the earth. Help us to see with your eyes of wisdom and stir the courage needed to act bravely as you did at the foot of the cross.



## **5<sup>th</sup> Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross (We Cannot Do This Alone)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. Mathew 27:32*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Simon of Cyrene was forced to help Jesus carry his cross. But his action is seen as a sign of the unity needed in the human community. Working together in solidarity is critical because we are all interconnected and interdependent. On this small world we live on, that beautiful “blue marble” as seen and described from space, we have hard work to do. We need to learn, live, and work together to solve the complex issues we face on Earth. These problems are often confusing, exhausting, and frightening. We cannot do this alone, we cannot do it all, and so we need to be in community and solidarity with others and with the Creator.

### **Laudato Si’:**

*We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. ... (With this sense of solidarity) the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for, while at the same time bringing awareness that we live in a common home which God entrusted to us. LS 229, 232*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Oh God who is all wise, help us to understand that all of Creation are our kin. As such we are keepers of our brothers and sisters from the smallest creatures to our immediate family. Like Simon who carried the cross for Jesus, help us find the courage and strength to lighten the sufferings of those bearing the burdens of injustice and violence, selfishness and greed.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus** **(Small Actions of Great Love)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Mathew 27:55*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Veronica saw the suffering of Jesus, but could not stand by, indifferent to his pain. She leaves the protection of the crowd, ignores soldiers and the jeering mob, comes to Jesus and wipes his face. The presence of Jesus is evident in the awe and glory of the Earth as well as in its pain and suffering. With this story we are then reminded how important and effective our small acts of love can be. As individuals we can manage or alter our lifestyles to live more simply. It may mean stepping out from the crowd, but if we turn off the lights when we don't need them, or use less plastic, each act contributes to the well-being and healing of this our common home, God's great gift of love and sacrifice.

### **Laudato Si':**

*Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation, and selfishness. Love, ... makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.*

*LS 230, 231*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Compassionate God, the face of your Son Jesus is mirrored in the form and life of your people and the creatures and resources of your Creation. May we take the wisdom of Saint Therese of Lisieux, who invites us to practice the little way of love, those works of charity and justice, small and large. Through her intercession may we be aware of the pain and suffering of others and may we work to learn to use our resources to heal, not harm our common home.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time** **(Hear the Cry of the Poor)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. Isaiah 53:5*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Christ fell under the weight of the cross and the brutal treatment he was receiving. While his first fall leads us to see the image of the cry of the earth, this second fall is a reflection of another sorrow – the cry of the poor. When pollution, extreme weather events, drought, famine and accompanying conflicts and war occur, without the resources to move or adapt, the poor, sick and elderly are often left behind. Especially harmed are those from indigenous, minority, and communities of color. The wealthier may flee, but the poor and vulnerable are left to suffer health impacts like diseases, cancer, asthma and chronic illnesses. And in all cases, premature death can be a reality.

### **Laudato Si':**

*Today ... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. LS 49.*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Lord you stumbled and fell, weighted down by your suffering. Likewise, Creation is gasping, smothered by the effects of consumerism, and policies that are not made to ever hear the voice of the poor. You have warned us to watch for you in the guise of the hungry and the needy. Give us eyes to see your face in the many who suffer and carry the burdens of injustice hidden in policies and practices. Open our hearts to hear the cry of the poor and the vulnerable.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus Consols the Women Weeping (Acknowledging our Sorrows)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." Luke 23:28*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Just as the women wept for Jesus, we find our hearts broken by the abuse leveled on our common home. The damage is seen worldwide, impacting the poor and vulnerable the most. So, we weep for those ecosystems and the people, animals and plant communities in them that suffer from the impacts of water, soil and air pollution, from the rising seas and the extreme weather events caused by climate change, and the crimes of murder and war over land and resources. While painful, embracing this sorrow is a key step in softening our hardened hearts and opening them to changing our behaviors and lifestyles, opening them to an ecological conversion.

### **Laudato Si':**

*Our goal is ... to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. LS 19.*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Dear Creator God, we stand before you. Please accept our tears and sorrow for all creation that has been harmed. Accept too our humble contrition for what we have done and what we have failed to do in our relationship with you, with others and with Creation. Help us then to feel deeply for the earth, your great gift of love for us, and to help motivate us with wisdom and courage to turn our sorrow into action.

## **9<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time** **(Hear the Cry of the Children and Future Generations)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*Rise during the night and cry out. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord, lift up your hands to him in prayer, pleading for your children. Lamentations 2:19*

*... and now the cry of the Children of Israel is come to me and I have seen the oppression ... Exodus 3:9*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

As we walk in pilgrimage with Christ, we see he falls again. He is weakened by the pain of the abuse he receives, just as the earth, God's Creation, suffers under misuse at our hands. The cries of the earth and the cries of the poor reverberate in the wood of the cross. But another cry is adding weight to Christ's burden. It is the cry of the children, the youth of today, the next generation who will have to contend with an earth in far more disrepair and crisis than any generation that has preceded them. They cry, march and speak out in protest, seeking our help, because they see the truth of what will come to them.

### **Laudato Si':**

*What kind of world do we want to leave for those who come after us... ? Leaving an inhabitable planet for future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. LS 160*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Father, open our ears to hear the cry of our children and the generations to come. We seek your guidance to enlighten our decisions and ask for courage to boldly work to protect your creation and your people. As Jesus found the strength to rise and fulfill your wishes, give us the resolve to care for your creation, even when the challenges are daunting, for the good of future generations.



## **10th Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments (The Earth & Its' People Defiled)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Scripture:**

*They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him saying, "Hail King of the Jews." Mathew 27:28 – 29*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Before his crucifixion, he was stripped of his clothing, mocked and demeaned. Today the Earth suffers denigration as well. It bears the scars and wounds of soil loss, deforestation, mining, and habitat destruction. In turn, runoff causes erosion, siltation and transports pollutants, which impacts our aquifers and ultimately our drinking water. Because everything is connected, everyone can be affected. Further, this destruction heavily impacts minorities and indigenous communities, robbing them of sacred places, traditional livelihoods, and those signs and symbols of their identity and ancestral history.

### **Laudato Si':**

*Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood, but also undo the social structures, which for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community. LSi' 145*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Lord, help us to understand our interconnections with people and environments around the world and to see the impacts in this global web of our lifestyle as well as our economic and industrial choices. Grant us the wisdom, humility and courage to work to lift up our voices for and with those with less power, while respecting everyone's dignity and listening to the intergenerational wisdom of all people.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is Nailed to The Cross** **(Our Relationship with God, Ourselves and Creation is Broken)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

### **Scripture:**

*We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.” 1 John 3:16*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

The nails of his crucifixion pierced the hands and feet of Jesus for our sins. His mother and beloved disciple were nearby, witnesses to his suffering. So too the earth, its many peoples and its environments suffers. Like the nails in his hands and feet, each careless decision, each outright illegal action, each marginalization of the poor and vulnerable, is a wound to God’s creation - a break in our connection to God.

### **Laudato Si’:**

*Disregard for the duty to cultivate and maintain a proper relationship with my neighbor, for whose care and custody I am responsible, ruins my relationship with my own self, with others, with God and with the Earth. When all these relationships are neglected, when justice no longer dwells in the land, the Bible tells us that life itself is endangered.*  
*LS 70*

### **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** O Lord Jesus, help us to work to mend the brokenness in our relationship with you and with Creation. Help us to be open and inspired by the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi who saw Creation in the light of awe and wonder and who saw himself as kin to all of your creatures. Give us the courage needed to anchor our acts and prayers in justice and peace and help us to turn our backs on our roles as masters, consumers, and ruthless exploiters of Creation, your great gift of love and sacrifice.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross** **(Surrendering Our Will to Ecological Conversion)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

### **Scripture:**

*It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And when he said this he breathed his last.. Luke 23: 44 – 46*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

As Jesus dies on the cross he says, "Thy will be done". This surrender was a total act of love so that we would be renewed from sin and be given life anew. To care for the Earth, we are sometimes called to make difficult choices and perhaps give something up, even though that may not be totally what we want. To make these tough moral choices and to think differently about our financial and social systems is not easy. We need to surrender ourselves to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit while also opening our hearts to offer some part of ourselves to serve all of creation, especially the poor, the vulnerable, and those who will come after us. That is the key to turning toward ecological conversion.

### **Laudato Si':**

*'The external deserts in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast.' (Pope Benedict XVI.) For this reason, the ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion ... whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationship with the world around them. LS 217.*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Creator God, help us commit to examining our lives and give us the wisdom needed to make changes in our course – whether large or small - to a healthier path. Give us the courage to surrender our selfishness and stubbornness. Guide us to learn about the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor and the cry of our children and future generations so that we might better serve you and be in better relationship with you and the gifts of your great love – Creation.

## **13<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross (Honoring Those Who Dare to Serve God's Creation)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

### **Scripture:**

*Later Joseph of Aramathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. John 19:38*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

We should be aware that many others, like Joseph of Aramathea, have and are taking risks out of love for God and Creation. Many thousands of God's servants around the world have stood up, used their voices and their bodies to protect plants, animals and people, while suffering threats, intimidation, violence, and torture. Thousands have died as they worked for the people and the environments that they cared deeply about.

### **Laudato Si':**

*Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience. LS 217*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Oh Lord, we offer to you our remembrances and prayers for those who are working to protect Creation in ways that we cannot. Let us honor their great bravery and courage seen as they face enormous and dangerous obstacles, often in difficult physical conditions, sometimes at the risk and reality of death. Give us the strength to emulate their dedication and determination in even the smallest ways as we try to serve you and your handiwork. We honor the martyrs that have died while protecting your Creation. We ask Sr. Dorothy Stang, your daughter in Christ, who was murdered because she was working to protect the land and the people of Para, Brazil, to pray for us.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus is Buried** **(God Does Not Abandon Us)**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

### **Scripture:**

*So, Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone in from to the door of the tomb and went away. Mathew 27: 59 – 60*

### **Reflection/Meditation:**

Jesus was laid in the tomb – a seemingly final act with no hope of a renewal of the life of love shared by the disciples and the followers of Jesus. So too as we work to protect Creation, we come up against the darkness of the immensity of the issues that face our common home. Like the apostles we can end up lost in despair or confusion, not knowing what steps to take next and whether any of the work is worth it.

### **Laudato Si':**

*The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. LSi' 13*

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** O God who makes all things new and to whom nothing is impossible, help us to acknowledge our responsibility to help bear your dream of Creation with peace and justice. Strengthen our ability to hold on to our faith, our hope, and our love when we feel overwhelmed and discouraged by the challenges we face. Bring us into community in our Church so that we can work together to support each other when we falter.



## **15<sup>th</sup> Station: Jesus Christ is Risen**

### **(The Beauty of God Our Creator and the New Journey)**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** We Praise you O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world

#### **Scripture:**

*Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome ... came to the tomb. 'Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?' ... But looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back, and upon entering the tomb they were amazed to see a young man sitting ... clothed in a white robe. He said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has risen. Mark 16: 1 – 6*

#### **Reflection/Meditation:**

How can we truly imagine what the three women experienced? Jesus death was so real, so final. Yet Jesus died on the cross to give us new life and new hope. We are on a critical pilgrimage in this time in history where our Earth is impacted heavily by the way we live and consume its resources. But Jesus' resurrection directs us to live in a different way. If we choose to take the path of mercy and generosity, and embark on a new journey of living simply and sustainably, the earth can heal and all of humanity and Creation will rise again in beauty.

#### **Laudato Si':**

*Sunday ... is meant to be a day which heals our relationship with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. Sunday is the day of Resurrection, the "first day" of the new creation, whose first fruits are the Lord's risen humanity ... It proclaims "man's eternal rest in God." LS 237*

#### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** God of all Creation, at the end, we will find ourselves face to face with your infinite beauty. ... In the meantime, we come together to take care of this home which you have entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking you. As we celebrate the joy of your resurrection every day, may we sing as we go! May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. Praise to you!! LSi 243/244