

St Joseph Catholic Church



Ecumenical Prayer Service for Season of Creation

Callander, September 22nd, 2022

WELCOME

PRIEST: We gather in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: *Praise be to the Holy Trinity!*

PRIEST: God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

READER 1: Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. *Praise be to you!*

ALL: *Praise be to you God, the Father!*

READER 2: Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. *Praise be to you!*

ALL: *Praise be to you Jesus, the Son of God!*

READER 3: Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts, and you inspire us to do what is good. *Praise be to you!*

ALL: *Praise be to you God, the Holy Spirit!*

PRIEST: Holy Trinity, one God, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.

READER 1: Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

READER 2: Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out.

READER 3: O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty. *Praise be to you!*

ALL: *Praise be to you, Holy Trinity! Amen.*

BLESSINGS FOR THE BOOK OF PROPHET DANIEL

L. Bless the Lord, all you, works of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, you, heavens;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, all you, waters above the heavens;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, all you, powers of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, stars of heaven;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, all rain and dew;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, all you, winds;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, fire and heat;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, dews and falling snow;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, ice and cold;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, frosts and snows;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

R. Bless the Lord, nights and days;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

L. Bless the Lord, light and darkness;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

- R.** Bless the Lord, lightnings and clouds;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Let the earth bless the Lord;
let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- R.** Bless the Lord, mountains and hills;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- R.** Bless the Lord, you springs;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, seas and rivers;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- R.** Bless the Lord, you whales and all that swim in the
waters; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, all wild animals and cattle;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, all people on earth;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, O Israel;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.
- L.** Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart;
R. sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

Daniel 3:57-88 (bible.oremus.org)

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

READER 1: All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of

your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

READER 2: O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

READER 3: Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

ALL: *We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.*

(Pope Francis)



LITANY OF LAMENT AND REPENTANCE

PRIEST: Three candles are lit to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women, and biodiversity God of our vibrant world, You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other.

READER 1: Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognise the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced.

READER 2: We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the Earth. We all value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today.

READER 3: We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life giving community. Help us make a place where

everyone is welcome, and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another.

ALL: *Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life.*

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

PRIEST: O God of the whole of creation. You have created land and trees, animals, and all living creatures on the earth.

READER 1: We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

READER 2: The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled. We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

ALL: *Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.*

READER 3: Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognise that it is your blessing for us.

ALL: *Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.*

READER 1: Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

READER 2: We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies and oil companies.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

READER 3: Many are the voices of people who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to protect the web of life.

ALL: *Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.*

PRIEST: We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

ALL: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

PRIEST: Creator God, please forgive us for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment.

ALL: *Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer.*

PRIEST: Turn us O God, from our desire to turn in upon ourselves, refuse to hear the voices of our co-creatures. Call us again, open our ears. Gather us in to relationships of mutual care and listening. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth.

ALL: *Amen.*

PRIEST: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

ALL: *Our Father...*

CLOSING

PRIEST: Thank you for joining us for this service. As you perceived we can respond as faithful prophets who speak out about the injustices that cause climate change, desecrate the land, and threaten the lives of human, animals, and plants alike. At the same time we lament and lift our compassion to God in prayers of intercessions.

Intercessions are our public witness, whether we speak them as prayers in worship, or as advocacy in public spaces.

And whatever we do, particularly during the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October) we act in the hope of our faith revealed in Christ Jesus, that God creates us in mutual love, reconciles us to one another, and entrusts each to the care of the other.

May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: *Amen.*



Season
of Creation