



# SEASON OF CREATION 2020

September 1 – October 4



## PRAYER SERVICE

### 1. INTRODUCTION (1<sup>st</sup> Reader)

*Prayer is at the centre of our lives as Christians. Praying together deepens our relationship with our faith and brings forth new gifts of the Spirit. As Jesus taught us: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them” (Matthew 18:20).*

### 2. SEASON OF CREATION 2020 PRAYER

Let us, then, begin our prayer: (2<sup>nd</sup> Reader)

*In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

Creator of Life,

At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### 3. SONG OF ST FRANCIS

When we refer to “the *Laudato Si*’ message”, we refer also to the broader “*Laudato Si*’ paradigm” (charism) embodied by the Canticle of the Creatures of St Francis which was first expressed by his proclamation “*Laudato si*’, *mi*’ *Signore*” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”, as a response to the beauty of Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire & Sister Mother Earth. And so let us listen to the [Song of St Francis: \*The Heavens are telling the Glory of God\*](#) (St Francis of Assisi ... Canticle of the Sun composed by Marty Haugen SJ; St Louis Jesuits)

**Refrain:**

**The heavens are telling the glory of god,  
and all creation is shouting for joy,  
come, dance in the forest, come play in the field  
and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.**

Sing to the sun, the bringer of day,  
he carries the light of the Lord in his rays,  
the moon and the stars, who light up the way unto your throne. **(Refrain)**

Praise to the wind, that blows through the trees,  
the seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze,  
they blow where they will, they blow where they please, to please the Lord. **(Refrain)**

Praise to the rain that waters our fields,  
and blesses our crops, so all the earth yields,  
from death unto life her myst'ry concealed, springs forth in joy. **(Refrain)**

Praise to the fire, who gives us his light,  
the warmth of the sun to brighten our night,  
he dances with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of You. **(Refrain)**

Sing to the earth, who makes life to grow,  
the creatures You made to let Your life show,  
the flowers and trees that help us to know the Heart of Love. **(Refrain)**

Praise to our death, that makes our life real,  
the knowledge of loss that helps us to feel,  
the Gift of Yourself, Your Presence revealed to bring us home. **(Refrain)**

**4. A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH (3<sup>rd</sup> Reader)**

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.  
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.  
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 recognise that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.  
Amen  
(Pope Francis)

## 5. CHANT FOR PEACE

Let us end with the Sanskrit chant for peace (RSCJ community)

शान्तिः द्यौः शान्तिरन्तरिक्षं शान्तिः	Peace is in Sky; Peace is in Space
पृथिवी शान्तिरापः शान्तिरोषधयः शान्तिः	Peace is in Earth; Peace is in Water; Peace is in Plants
वनस्पतयः शान्तिर्विश्वेदेवाः शान्तिर्ब्रह्म शान्तिः	Peace is in Trees; Peace is in God (presiding over Nature); Peace is in Brahman (Absolute Consciousness);
सर्वं शान्तिः शान्तिरेव शान्तिः सा मा शान्तिरेधि ॥	Peace is pervading everywhere; Peace alone (which is outside) is in Peace (which is inside) May you be (established in) that Peace (which makes your life fulfilled);
शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥	Peace, Peace, Peace.

*Prayer service prepared by Sr Daphne Viveka RSCJ*