



The Season of Creation

“Laudato Si, mi’ Signore” “Praised be to you, my Lord!” With these words from St. Francis of Assisi’s *Canticle of the Creatures*, Pope Francis began his 2015 encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, with a cry of thanks and praise to God for the gift of creation and the privilege God has given us as stewards of all that he has created. The message of *Laudato Si* calls us, urges us to see the beauty and inherent value in the natural world, to care for our common home, to protect this fragile earth, and to embrace our vocation as caretakers and responsible stewards of God’s creation.

This is our call every day, but during the Season of Creation, the Church joins with Christians throughout the world with a particular focus on prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The Season of Creation is observed each year from September 1, the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation,” until October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This season emphasizes our call to honor and care for God’s creation as an expression of our faith and love for our Creator, to deepen our awareness of the interconnectedness of all life, to renew our commitment to caring for the planet, to seek God’s guidance and strength to live in harmony with all of creation, and to embrace our role as stewards of the earth.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2024, “To hope and act with Creation,” and its symbol of “The firstfruits of hope,” inspired by Romans 8:19-25, are aligned with Pope Francis’ prayer intention for the month of September: “That each of us might listen with our hearts to the cry of the earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and climate change, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit.”

Let us embrace this season with hearts full of gratitude and determination, realizing that each act of care for the earth, each effort to live sustainably, and every prayer for the well-being of creation becomes a tangible expression of our hope in God’s promise of renewal. May we be mindful that as we care for the world around us, we reflect God’s love and commitment to His creation and become firstfruits of hope, demonstrating that even the smallest acts can lead to profound change.

Throughout this Season of Creation, let us join our prayer with Christians throughout the world:

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 recognize 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.