

## Praying as One Body for Our Common Home during the Season of Creation

September 1 – October 4, 2019

*The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation. It runs from September 1 to October 4. In 1989, Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed September 1 as a day of prayer for creation (World Day of Prayer for Creation, or Creation Day) in the Orthodox Church. It was adopted by other major Christian European churches in 2001 and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015.*

Source: <https://seasonofcreation.org/about/>

### **Week 1: Ocean Week**

“Let the sea roar and all that fills it!” Ps. 96.11

Introduction: Ocean refers to the mass of waters that cover two thirds of Earth’s surface, the swirling seas and the watery deeps where myriads of species live, many of which are still undiscovered. The ocean is a world of mystery and beauty, of fascinating depths and spectacular life forms. The ocean is that vast domain many of our ancestors crossed to reach all parts of planet Earth. And the waters of the oceans are ultimately the waters of life for all the planet.

Prayer: We thank God for a wondrous planet home, especially the waters of the ocean that surround us. We pray for all those in need. We name them now. We close with the following prayer.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the land, the seas and the skies. Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the forest and the air. Christ, teach us to care. Amen

### **Week 2: Fauna Week**

“Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Praise the Lord!” Ps. 148.10

Introduction: Fauna refers to the all the living species on planet Earth—in the wild, in our lives and in our soils. In Genesis One, all living species emerge from Earth who is their common mother. In Genesis Two, the first human and all animals are created from clay and the breath of God. In Job 39, the kingdom of the wild is God’s special concern, no matter how remote or mysterious.

Prayer: We thank God for a wondrous creation. We celebrate with all fauna in creation. We pray for all in danger and need. We name them now. We close with the following prayer.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky, cries of our fellow creatures deserted and dying. Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration echoing around us. Christ, teach us to care. Amen

### **Week 3: Storm Week**

“You make the clouds your chariots, you ride on the wings of the wind and you make the winds your messengers” Ps. 104.3-4

Introduction: Storm refers to the world of the weather, the gales, the lighting, the winds, the cyclones, the hurricanes, the downpours and the flash floods outback.. Storm means both nature in the raw and the weather we need to renew our planet. Storms may be events that frighten us, but they are also events that we celebrate in the weather cycle that sustains Earth as a living planet.

Prayer: We thank God for a wondrous creation. We celebrate with all the forces of nature. We pray for all those in need. We name them now. We close with the following prayer.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky, cries of our fellow creatures deserted and dying. Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration echoing around us. Christ, teach us to care. Amen

#### **Week 4: Cosmos Week**

“Praise God you highest skies” Ps.148.1

Introduction: Cosmos refers to the entire universe, every dimension of time and space, spiritual and material. The cosmos is both the glittering galaxies that humans have begun to explore as well as distant domains far beyond our imagination. In addition, there are unknown domains deep within each minute molecule we have yet to comprehend. All creation is one sacred cosmos, a spiritual universe filled with God’s presence.

Prayer: We thank God for a wondrous planet home, connected with a web of worlds we call the cosmos. We pray for all those in need in our world. We name them now. We close with the following prayer.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the land, the seas and the skies. Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the forest and the air. Christ, teach us to care. Amen

#### **Week 5: Animal Week**

“All creatures praise the Lord” Ps. 148

Introduction: Animals refer to all the living creatures people bring to worship, whether they be animals, such as cats and dogs, or birds, reptiles and fish, domesticated or wild. Where people are not able to bring an animal, they may wish to bring a picture of an animal they love or an endangered species in the wild.

Prayer:

God, our Creator, help us to love  
all creatures as kin,  
all animals as partners on Earth,  
all birds as messengers of praise,  
all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design  
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.

*This prayer is adapted from THE SEASON OF CREATION – 2019, <https://seasonofcreation.com/calendar/>.  
The Society’s UN-NGO Office in collaboration with the Philippine Duchesne Region prepared this version for the international Society of the Sacred Heart.*