



# Prayer Reflection Guide 1



*"If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home."*

Pope Francis

*Message for the 2022 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*

*"Listen to the voice of creation"* is the theme of this year's Season of Creation, which begins on 1<sup>st</sup> September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and concludes on 4<sup>th</sup> October with the feast of Saint Francis.

## Listening to the Voice of Creation: A Litany

### The Sweet Song of Praise

*"The fire has its flame and praises God.  
The wind blows the flame and praises God.  
In the voice we hear the word which praises God.  
And the word, when heard, praises God.  
So all of creation is a song of praise to God."*

Hildegard of Bingen



Response: *With all of creation, we sing a song of praise, O God.*

- For the breaking of each new dawn and the promise of every day... R/
- For the air we breathe, the water that sustains us, and the earth that hold us... R/
- For the plants and animals, and all creatures that join us in this circle of life... R/
- For all the persons we know and love, and all who weave life with us... R/
- For all peoples in the world, and the cultures that enrich our common home... R/
- For the gift of creativity, the work that we do, and the contributions we make... R/
- For the joys that we experience, the hopes we nourish, and the love we share... R/

*We may add our own prayers to this litany....*

*We pause in silence and call to mind and heart moments when we experienced and sang Creation's sweet song of praise; and make a personal prayer of gratitude.*



## The Anguished Plea

*"The Earth sustains humanity.  
It must not be injured;  
it must not be destroyed."*

Hildegard of Bingen

Response: *We listen to Creation's anguished plea and ask for forgiveness.*

For our excesses and abuses that cause anguish on Earth, our mother ....	R/
For businesses, industries, and government policies that destroy our Earth....	R/
For choices and lifestyles that prevent us from caring for our common home....	R/
For the climate crisis that affects all, especially the poor and vulnerable....	R/
For the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems....	R/
For indigenous peoples who are deprived of their home and heritage....	R/
For children and young people who fear what the future will bring....	R/

*We may add our own prayers to this litany....*

*We pause in silence and call to mind and heart moments when we experienced or contributed to  
Creation's anguished plea; and make a personal prayer asking for forgiveness.*

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## A Prayer of Care and Commitment

Loving God,  
as we begin our celebration of this year's Season of Creation,  
we ask for the grace of gratitude and care for Earth, our common home.

Open our minds and hearts, so that we may listen to the voices of creation.

Give us the hope and courage to respond and take even little steps  
that will allow Earth to rest, renew, restore, and recreate.

Together we implore our peoples and governments to take action  
so that the future generations can take part in creation's song of praise.

Trusting in the transforming power of the Spirit,  
we make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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