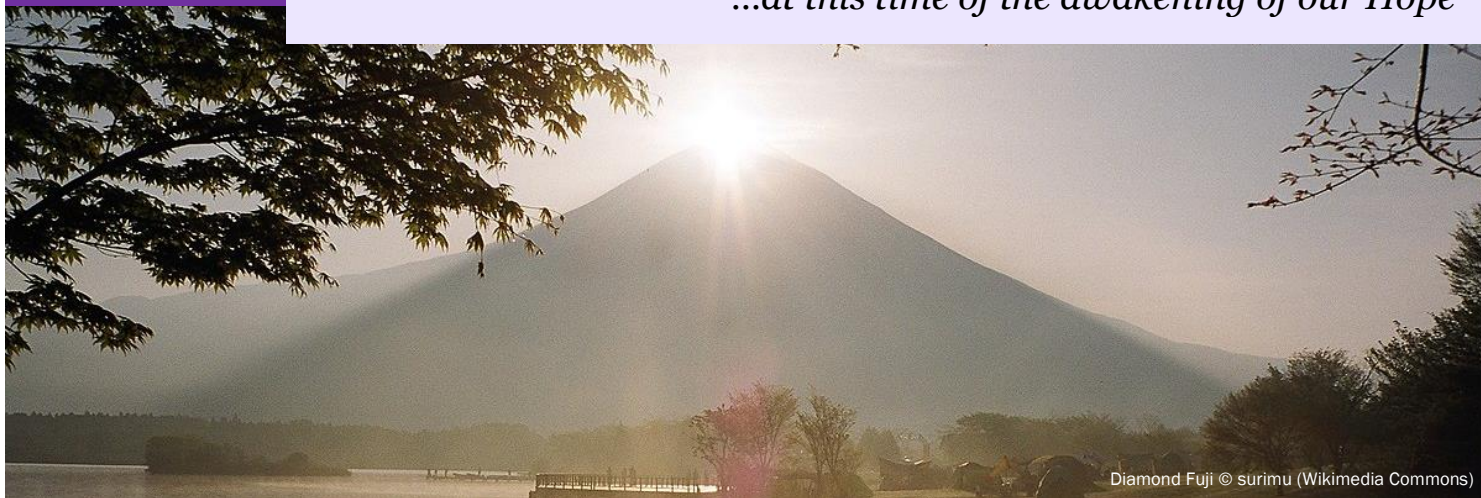


# Contemplating the Beauty of Creation

...at this time of the awakening of our Hope



## The grace to be requested

Vigilance of heart: "let us see your love, lord." (PS 84:4)

May a new light shine on the meaning of life and in this light may we be ready so that we will not be surprised by his coming. (cf. Mt 24:44)

## Composition of place

Set the scene with a few photos of creation, of our brother and sister creatures and some seasonal fruit.

*"Moving from our settled places" to His very presence in the heart of Life, which is so threatened...*

The prophecies of Isaiah keep us going throughout this first week and invite us to **awaken all our senses and to let the eyes of our imaginations** rest on any one of the splendid images of Nature suggested by these promises:

"Let us climb to the mountain...to the house of God... his ways ...by his paths... ploughshare... sickles... no more war....." (Is 2,1-5) / "The seed of the earth... The fruit of the earth... The glory of the Lord will be like the heat of the day, the shade of a dwelling, a refuge, a shelter from the storm and the rain" (Is 4) / "A shoot shall come forth from the stock of Jesse" (Is 11) / "The orchard will be like a forest" ... "Come out of the darkness and the gloom..." (Is 29) / "This is the way, follow it... the Lord will give you rain for the seed that you have planted..." (Is 30)

Welcome what happens to me ... what does this contemplation awaken in me? Wonder, gratitude, fear, confusion...How would I describe the relationship I have with the whole of creation at this moment?

*After a suitable time of silence, the first sharing...*

LAUDATO SI: "An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence "must not be contrived but found, uncovered". #225

"Prayer, as an act of faith and love, as the "breath" of our relationship with God, purifies our hearts, it also enlightens our eyes, "allowing us to grasp reality from another point of view..." (Pope Francis - May 2021)

A second time of silence, keeping in mind both the sharing of the others and the following question:

*Can I embrace the future that Isaiah envisages for us?*

*"This contemplative attitude permeates our whole being, helping us to live ever more united to Christ in our relationships, our tasks, and our ministry; it becomes a powerful force of conversion and transformation for mission. In welcoming God's word, Mary gave Christ to the world. In receiving the life of Jesus, we give ourselves with Him so that all may have life."*  
(§22 Constitutions)

**Refrain:** All day long, I hope in you because of your goodness, Lord. Remember your kindness, Lord, your love, which you showed long ago. (*Ps. 24: 5-6*)

**Video: [Taizé - En Toi j'espère tout le jour](#)**

“In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God... **Let us sing as we go! May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.** (*Laudato Si #244.*)



God, **who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength** needed to continue our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us **to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!** (*Laudato Si # 245*)

**Reflection/Action:**

Would now be a good time, at the beginning of Advent, to commit ourselves this week to watching the new film "[The Letter](#)" with others?

The following can help us to do this:

“Caring for our common home is also **a call to hope.** As members of the Sacred Heart Family, we recognize the broken body of Christ in the broken and suffering earth. The water that flows from the pierced Heart of Jesus transforms our perception of one another, our world, ourselves, and our common home...

**The call to care for our common home, which is replete with diverse beauty, holds unprecedented urgency.** Driven by an ethic of caring about the future of our planet **we along with so many others responding to this call seeks creative and effective ways to heed this urgency.**” (*Artisans of Hope, p.19.*)

**Liturgy of a man who is totally focused**

“Since once again, Lord — ... this time ... in the steppes of Asia — I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, **I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the real itself;** I, your priest, **will make the whole earth my altar** and on it will offer you **all the labors and sufferings of the world...**My paten and my chalice are the depths of a soul laid widely open to all the forces which in a moment will rise up from every corner of the earth and converge upon the Spirit... One by one, Lord, I see, and I love (them)... I call before me **the whole vast anonymous army of living humanity...** those who come, and those who go; above all, those who in office, laboratory, and factory, through their vision of truth or despite their error, truly believe in the progress of earthly reality and **who today will take up again their impassioned pursuit of the light.**”

*(Teilhard de Chardin – The Mass on the World - 1923)*

*Let us entrust to the Lord the names of people and situations that are in our hearts...*

End by listening to the Song of Daniel (3: 57-88) as each person places a small light near the candle in the center.

