

A Catholic Season of Creation – September 2015

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – 6th September 2015

In the beginning was the Word Jn 1:1-14

We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth

Inspiration from Sunday Lectionary and Worship Prayers

(Isiah; Ps 145; James; Mark)

justice and mercy meet
drawn into the circle of life
have eyes to wonder
courage, God coming
blind, deaf, lame, dumb healed
waters gush in the desert
welcome stranger, widow
divisions - seek best seats
preach Good News kingdom
He has done all things well

Season of Creation

A major stimulus to creating a Season of Creation came in 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Dimitrios 1 named the beginning of the Orthodox liturgical year, 1 September, as Creation Day.

Pope John Paul II in his 1990 New Year Message wrote that the natural world has its own integrity and nominated Francis of Assisi as the Patron Saint of the environment.

*God, maker of heaven and earth, and
the sea and all that these hold*

Ps 146:6



Greeting

Today the Readings invite us to remember and give thanks for the grace of God filling all creation – humans and the natural world together. We are challenged to be neither blind to God present in every cycle of life, human and cosmic, nor dumb to preach the Good News by the way we act. In God, justice and mercy meet, for people and the earth.

Prayers of faithful

- Creator God, you are the author of billions of years of cosmic and earth's evolution. Draw us into the full circle of your life present with us in diverse ways and connections.
- Generous God, you have created a diversity of species and peoples as our brothers and sisters. Open to us the secrets of life on earth, let us respect its full story.
- Spirit of Wisdom, may we not remain blind and dumb to finding you present in water and fertile land, and not become lame in fighting to care for it.
- In you Oh God justice and mercy meet. Drive out of us the devil of complacency so that we may re-make economic structures that abuse people and land.

Connect Justice, Peace and Care for Earth (JPIC)

Pope Francis uses the phrase 'integral ecology' and warns against a narrow scientific focus on the modern environmental crisis. Just as the theological word 'inculturation' has challenged us to embrace the riches offered by local churches, he proposes a new phrase - Integral Ecology. It might best be seen as a type of package to guide our daily living.

Focused first on Christian worship of the Creator of all, Integral Ecology has implications for choices in the human journey, our life style and values - to confront the impact of 'dictatorial economics' on the world's poor and the earth itself. The Pope invites us to revisit the integral connection between Justice, Peace and Care for Earth (JPIC).

Another View

Protestant promoters in the USA and Australia have written on Creation Time worship and produced a special set of Scripture lessons.

www.seasonofcreation.com www.webofcreation.org
They have also published a preaching commentary *The Season of Creation* (eds. Norman C Habel, David Rhoads and H Paul Santmire, Fortress Press 2011).
<https://goo.gl/leRDis>

The four Sundays in each September are theologically themed towards successively addressing creation, alienation, passion and new creation. For the first Sunday in cycle B, the Prologue of John's Gospel is chosen - a hymn of praise for Jesus as the Word of God (Jn 1:1-14).

Champions

Jesuit priest Fr Tielhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was the first Catholic in modern times to write on the links between the earth sciences and faith. As a scientist he explored the wonder of God's cosmos. As a believer in the Cosmic Christ he wrote prayers as part of developing a theology of *infatuation* with God's earth. Often misunderstood and maligned he suffered with Christ to open wider God's revelation and a fuller human vocation. <http://goo.gl/AaMYyU>



Dismissal

Along with all creation we know that God loves us. Even though humans and the natural world both groan to be set free, we can go forth from this Eucharist confident in the Gospel message about Jesus who came into this world to bring fullness of life.

Hymns

For the beauty of the Earth

From Thee all skill and science flow

www.ecocongregationscotland.org

Ecological Insights

Earth systems science covers a wide range of complex studies. Our knowledge and appreciation of the earth's cosmic systems continues to expand. These systems continually interact locally to sustain life on earth. Because they are evolving and subject to human influence, some people throw up their hands and look for simple one dimensional explanation. For others they are a reason for wonder, for some a reason to praise God.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_system_science

What can I do?

Be a local contact person for
Catholic EarthCare.

Join a local earth care group