

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION** **An ecumenical service**

You will need: Night lights for the congregation  
Globe/Map of the world/or large environment photo  
Your own service sheet with prayers and hymns

**HYMN SUGGESTION:** O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

### **INTRODUCTION**

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis says: "Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life". (LS para 207).

Possible Video introduction  
Vatican introduction of Laudato Si'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYdOlqvpqg>

### **READING: Psalm 65: 9-13**

You visit the earth and make it fruitful, you fill it with riches; the river of [God](#) brims over with water, you provide the grain. To that end you water its furrows abundantly, level its ridges, soften it with showers and bless its shoots. You crown the year with your generosity, richness seeps from your tracks, the pastures of the [desert](#) grow moist, the hillsides are wrapped in joy, the meadows are covered with flocks, the valleys clothed with wheat; they shout and sing for joy.

**HYMN SUGGESTION:** *Feel the Spirit all around*

### **PENITENTIAL:**

#### **LEADER:**

Loving Creator God, we pray for this world - as beautiful as it is, yet with places where the ugliness of war, violence and corruption destroys all you have given us – where it is difficult to see signs of any justice or peace. We pray for the people in these places whose lives are treated with little or no respect or compassion; who live in constant fear of violence or being killed.

We confess our selfishness and failure to listen to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth. Lord have mercy

**ALL: Lord have mercy**

We confess that we have been obsessed with ourselves and forgotten to be grateful for the gifts of the natural world. Christ have mercy

**ALL: Christ have mercy**

We confess that our closed horizon has prevented us from looking towards tomorrow, preventing us from handing over to our children a fertile and clean Earth. Lord have mercy

**ALL: Lord have mercy**

**LEADER:**

Transform our lives. May God who established the dance of creation, who marvelled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation.

**READING: Laudato Si para 217**

It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

*[There could be a PRESENTATION or REFLECTION at this point]*

Creator, this is such a beautiful world, both fragile and resilient. Forgive us when we act as if this world belongs to us, rather than to you. May our desire to love all of life grow; may our ability to act lovingly towards all of life grow. Thank you for these people and this time together. Help us continue to support one another in our journeys; use us to bring about a world that is more compassionate and just, where all people and all creation enjoy and share in life's bounty.

**Amen.**

**I will light a light**

A: I will light a light  
In the name of the maker of light  
Who lit the world with stars, sun and moon  
And breathed the breath of life into all things.

B: I will light a light  
In the name of the revealer of light  
Who brought light into the darkness  
And stretched out his hands for us  
Giving his love to the whole world.

A: I will light a light  
In the name of the inspirer of light  
Who lit the world from within  
And fills my life with wonder  
In the search for learning and  
wisdom.

B: We hold these lights  
**All : For the Trinity of light and love  
God's presence everywhere  
God's salvation for everyone  
God's inspiration of all things.**

A: We hold these lights

**All : For ourselves and each other  
For our families, friends and enemies  
For our work, hopes and struggles. For the whole world  
For all things created, visible and invisible  
For individuals and communities in need.**

B: We hold these lights to give thanks

**All : For water, air and soil  
For plants, trees and animals  
For minerals and fossils.**

A: We hold these lights to give thanks

**All : For knowledge, skills and ideas  
For inventions and discoveries  
For science and the arts.**

**All: May our footprint on this earth be light**

May we discover the holiness of your  
presence everywhere  
May we learn how to value your gifts  
without harm or waste  
May we enrich the flourishing of  
beauty in the things we make and use. Amen.

### **PRAYING FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES**

Pope Francis has called on us to be attentive to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth.  
Call out the names of people and places we especially remember tonight.

We invite you to come forward with your candle and place it beside a globe/map of the  
world/large environmental photo reflecting on your own personal commitment to care for  
God's Creation.

*Chant suggestions:*

*I will tread the Earth lightly*

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation  
In God I trust, in God I trust.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Creator God,

We are called to love and serve you through honouring the sanctity of your creation  
and loving our brothers and sisters, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Give us the grace to show true faith in works of love and mercy.

Give courage and strength to all who work in agencies bringing relief to the hungry and the  
homeless, peacekeeping forces endeavouring to maintain law and order, and organisations  
striving to protect the environment.

Give wisdom and compassion to the world leaders in the governance of the care of your creation, particularly for the United Nations climate talks in Paris this December.  
Loving God we look to you

**ALL: PRAYER FROM LAUDATO SI**

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
Praise be to you!  
Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this Earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!  
Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!  
Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.  
God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this Earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the Earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you! Amen.

**HYMN:**

I the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,

My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

***Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.***

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them,  
Whom shall I send?

### **Blessing** (Second Prayer from Laudato Si)

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 recognise 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.

**FINAL HYMN SUGGESTION: Laudato Si**

**[Prepared by Columban JPIC for the World Day of Prayer for Creation 1 September 2015.]**