



Pathways: Hope for the Journey 1st Sunday Advent - Year C LIBERATION



Your way is true (Ps 24) Prayers and Sunday Scripture

*Eager to welcome heaven's call
Searching for light of the Word
Welcoming the light of his truth
Honesty and integrity in the land
City called Lord-our-integrity
Shows the path to those who stray
Confirm your hearts in holiness
Human race to love each other
Progress in kind of life meant to lead
Stand erect as liberation at hand
Not coarsened with cares of life
Stay awake, pray all times.*

Earth not bewildered

Ecology puts humanity within a comfortable Earthly home – Goldie Locks Planet. The evolution of life on Earth over eons is a complex and seemingly unknowable story. Yet its mystery has been probed over millennia by science and religion to create a marvellous revelation in our times. Locating ourselves within Earth's systems of nature puts us in a secure place. In that place we learn from its systems to grow new and sustainable ways of living. Humanity can progress without apocalyptic calamity or being bewildered.

Science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into intense dialogue fruitful to both. Pope Francis Laudato Si' #62

Dialogue

Advent is a time to search and appreciate other ways. Fifty years ago the Vatican II document on interfaith dialogue taught that the whole human family carries a spiritual impulse. All that is true and holy in religions and philosophies carries images of God. Mutual learning creates a common vision for the future. Pope Francis recently named dialogue with ecological scientists and campaigners as integral to God's mission and Catholic living.

Prayers of the Faithful

- Freedom** – God freed the People of Israel from slavery. That we will work to free ourselves from sin and grow freedom in nations ...
we pray
- Leaders** - God graces our lives with model leaders. That planners facing Climate Change will all act with vision and boldness ...
we pray
- Earth** - God has graced us with Earth as our common home. That we will respect and use it with love as Pope Francis asks ...
we pray
- Change** – God has set us in an evolving world. That we will be willing to change our thinking so we do not live in fear but can stand erect ... *we pray*
- Lifestyle** – In Jesus we have the power to be transformed. That we will not be lured into a self-centred lifestyle but choose to grow with others ...
we pray

Thomas Merton

He was a seeker. He began his search for meaning in his life as a lover of literature. Converted to God, he searched the Scriptures and became a Cistercian monk. A prolific writer about the mystical journey, he sought out the wisdom of other faiths through dialogue with prominent Asian spiritual figures. He grew his appreciation of Christ by relishing the practices of Zen Buddhism and communion with nature taught through Taoism.

Action

- Join an inter-faith group such as Faith and Ecology Network
- Read Laudato Si' or visit an inter-faith website like the Yale Forum

Mission's Wide Embrace

Pastors and the lay faithful who accompany their brothers and sisters in faith or on a journey of openness to God must always remember what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches quite clearly: "Imputability and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified by ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psychological or social factors".... accompany with mercy and patience.

Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel #44