

## Care for Creation/ Lent/St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day



**March 2018**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

May Christ our Blessed Light, journeying to death, shed his peaceful light on all creation. With St. Patrick and St. Joseph, may we meet others as God comes to meet us with no bias except that of love freely given. May we welcome each person as a messenger of God. May we find God in the joy of being together; in the beauty of different religions, races, and cultures; and in *the sacredness of all creation*. And as we touch the lives of so many in need, may we *follow Christ in such a way that our search for truth leads to the renewed discovery that God is Light and that we have that LIGHT INSIDE of each of us*.

### **The Light Inside of You** (or other hymn of your choice)

By Jeff Cohen and Cliff Goldmacher (sung by Ronan Tynan)

If you can see, your blessing's not a burden  
Talk to me, I've seen your heart of hearts  
I still believe in a world that's so uncertain  
No one rides for free down the boulevard of stars

When you want to lay down  
Hold your head up high.

*You stand alone like a moonless sky  
Surrounded by the darkness  
Lift your eyes and you will rise  
Up where the morning sun comes shining through  
to show the world the LIGHT INSIDE OF YOU*

For what it's worth, I thought I ought to mention  
On God's green earth, there's no one else like you

*If faith is a river  
Make yours deep and wide* (Refrain repeated)

### **REFLECTION from *Laudato Si* and Isaiah (61: 1-6)**

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Everything, soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. (\*84)

*Because the Lord has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives and release of prisoners,  
To announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God,  
To comfort all who mourn;*

God has written a precious book, “whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe.” The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: “From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.” The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: “To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope.” This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since “for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice.” (85)

*To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes,  
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,  
A glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.  
They will be called oaks of justice planted by the Lord to show his glory.*



**Psalm 113** (Nan Merrill)

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
The praise of God echoes from the seas and the nations  
From east to west, a perfect sacrifice of praise we offer!  
All servants of God in all nations  
Proclaim the God whose word is Justice,  
Whose name means Peace!

Bless the God of our ancestors both now and evermore!  
God indeed is above the heavens and the earth  
The ways of God are beyond the limits of our minds and hearts  
There can be none to compare with the Justice of God

Who breathes and grieves with us in our sorrows  
Like a hand in a glove, God lives, walks among us  
Seeing us in our every need

God will raise those who are poor and lowly.  
God will bring down the mighty and the arrogant from their thrones.  
God will fill the hungry and give freedom to the captive.

Praise, all servants of God  
The God who gives glad tidings to the families of nations.  
Glory to You, Source of all Being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

**FAITH SHARING/REFLECTION**

“There is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night.” How have you paid attention to this manifestation in relation to yourself and other creatures? What message of hope will you carry forward?



### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Provident God, you call us in Jesus Christ “to be a healing and compassionate presence in our world.” Come once again and show us how to serve, how to stand alongside those who struggle for justice and human rights. Inspire those who hold positions of power in governments and corporations to work for the common good as did Mike Stack, CEO of Dick’s Sporting Goods. Through the intercession of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, we ask for the wisdom to discern the truth among all the conflicting voices that claim to be true. Help us to be agents of truth, righteousness, and peace. Amen.