

June Prayer for Care for Earth



Theme: Impact of Faith Leadership on Climate Issues

Suggestions for an opening hymn/song:

Open My Eyes

Sacred Creation (Zaragoza)

All Creatures of Our God and King

This Day God Gives Me

Psalm 148

Antiphon: "All things are connected." (Chief Seattle)

Praise the Blessed One!
Give praise from the heavens,
And from all ends of the earth!
Give praise, all you angels,
Angels of earth and of heaven!

Give praise, sun and moon,
Give praise, all you shining stars!
Give praise, all universes,
The whole cosmos of Creation!

Give praise to the Beloved,
All the earth,
All that swim in the deep,
And all the winged ones in the air!

Give praise, all mountains and hills,
All trees and all minerals!
Give praise all four-legged
And all that creep on the ground!

Leaders of the nations and all peoples,
Young and old,
Give praise! Unite together in all
Your diversity,
That peace and harmony might
flourish on earth!

Psalms for Praying (Nan Merrill)

Readings:

We have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation. God so loved us that God created for us a pure, clean home here on Earth, vibrant with healthy nature to provide for our needs. He also gave us the free will to choose how we care for that Earth. Let's follow the Golden Rule and do unto others and our Earth as we would have done unto ourselves and our children. For too long, the priorities of a greedy few have forced our climate out of balance, degrading God's creation, damaging our land, water, and air and harming us all—especially the least among us. We must care more fully for creation and walk more gently upon God's Earth.

eco America, Let's Talk Climate Messages to Motivate Americans.

“As Catholics, we are called to protect creation. Our moral leadership is an important signal for decision makers here in the U.S., and a sign of hope for our sisters and brothers around the world.” Global Catholic Climate Movement 2018. United States

Poem

The earth is at the same time
mother,
she is mother of all that is natural,
mother of all that is human,
She is the mother of all,
for contained in her
are the seeds of all.

The earth of humankind
contains all moistness,
all verdancy,
all germinating power.

It is in so many ways
fruitful.
All creation comes from it.
Yet it forms not only the basic
raw material for humankind,
but also the substance
of the incarnation
of God’s son.
- Hildegard of Bingen in Earth Prayers

Further Thoughts

“ I used to think that if we
threw enough good science
at the environmental problems,
we could solve them. I was
wrong. The main threats to
the environment are not bio-
diversity loss, pollution, and
climate change, as I once
thought. They are selfishness
and greed and pride. And for
that we need a spiritual and
cultural transformation, some-
thing we scientists don’t know
much about.”

James Gus Speth, Former Dean of
Yale School of Forestry and U.S.
Presidential Climate Advisor

“... the deep ecological movement
operates out of a deep respect
for all forms of life and accords them
an equal right to live and blossom”

“But the ecological revolution ...
represents a profound paradigm
shift that includes ultimately a
**spiritual dimension, so that eco-
logical activism can be seen as
having a spiritual basis and orientation.**”

-*Christ in All Things*, Ursula King



Reflection

Care for Earth requires a conversion in us to think more deeply and develop a new consciousness about our relationship with Earth. What does this mean to you?

Possible Actions

- Do or redo the Environmental Audit. (<http://osfphila.org/justice-and-peace/eco/>. How Earth Friendly Are You?)
- View YouTube videos on water, environment, etc.
- Decide on one step you can take to protect Earth.
- Go to ecoAmerica: 2016, *Let's Talk Faith and Climate Communication Guidance for Faith Leaders*. (<https://ecoamerica.org/research/#faith>)
- Commit to educating yourself about care for Earth.

Prayer

Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts. Teach us to care for our earth: to till our soil responsibly, to keep our waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of our sun, and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with one another. We ask this of you, God of our universe. Amen.

-People's Companion to the Breviary

