

July Prayer for Care for Earth

Theme: Climate Justice /Take a Carbon Sabbath



Thank you for praying for climate justice—a great way to be together and celebrate this summer month!

By joining together in prayer, we can amplify the cries of the Earth and the voices of those facing the greatest risks from climate change. Through meditation, prayer, song, and discussion, we can foster a spirit of willingness to change habits and extend generous compassion to those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of a warming planet.



Start with where you are.

The scale of the climate change crisis feels overwhelming but global ecological reconciliation starts right where you are. Allow space in your prayers to acknowledge that humans have become disconnected from nature and actively participate in reconciliation with your ecological community by getting to know your surroundings today.

Song: Sacred Creation by Rufino Zaragoza, OFM
(Use link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4XsVzr2x9M>)

Prayer:

HOLY SPIRIT,
making life alive,
moving in all things,
root of all created being,
cleansing the cosmos
of every impurity,
effacing guilt,
anointing wounds.
You are lustrous
and praiseworthy life,
You waken and re-awaken
Everything
that is.

Hildegard of Bingen

Take a Carbon Sabbath.

Climate change presents a moral problem whose solutions must include spiritual action.

Many scholars, rabbis, theologians, and pastors suggest that Sabbath practices may be an important part of the response to our growing ecological crisis. Sabbath provides liberation from dominating cycles of restlessness, it cultivates ecological awareness, and it opens space and time to inhabit— and thus become reconciled with—Creation.

Read the passage below:

Jubilee means not only rest and reverence for the land but also rest and reverence for that other land, “the land of ourselves, the tiny country each of us comprises, whose geography we know so well. We are to let that land, the land of our bodies, our blood, our breath, and our bones, lie fallow too” (qt. Maria Harris). In ways that we must discover for ourselves and with our families, we can learn to practice Sabbath, to break the frenetic pace of our daily, weekly, monthly, yearly lives in order to renew our health holistically. This is not so much a matter of being religious on Sunday. In fact the demands of church activities may make that day as frenetic as any other day. Rather the Sabbath concern is to recall who we are and to recover our humanity so that we may continue to live in the world without succumbing to the reigning ideology and mechanisms of production and consumption so that we may live less in competition and more in community with those around us. The Sabbath-Jubilee mandate for rest might lead us to consider the whole range of factors that are causing stressful lifestyles, various kinds of over consumption, and patterns of overwork which can undermine our physical and emotional health, our families, and our social life. It might enable us to consider the other Sabbath-Jubilee mandates concerning debts and slavery and the distribution of economic resources for the life of all. And it might help us to understand why so many are so poor and not blame them for being poor. Our churches and synagogues can become Jubilee communities, small laboratories in which we can practice alternative economic possibilities, try new forms of solidarity, and experience Jubilee spirituality together.

Kinsler, Ross, and Gloria Kinsler. The Biblical Jubilee and the Struggle for Life. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1999. Pgs. 20-21

Leviticus 25:4

But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of Sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. ⁵ Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.

Take some time:

- How might the Sabbath practice the authors describe impact your life? Your community? What could it do for the USA? The world?
- Pray that our economies will become organized around Biblical Jubilee principles, instead of patterns of exhaustive (and exhausting) consumption and exploitation.
- *Practice an hour (or a day!) of Sabbath: leave your car behind and your lights off. Go for a walk. Sit outside. Be still.*



Prayer:

Good and gracious God, we stand in awe of your power to create a magnificent world for us to enjoy during our lifetime. Help us to see it anew as the wonder that it is. Open our eyes and enlighten our minds to understand the power we hold and the responsibility we have to keep it as a gift that we only borrow for our lifetime, to return to you and the generations to follow. Send you Holy Spirit to be here as we reflect in our hearts and minds on your call to us as human beings and Christians to keep this treasure, your Earth, safe from harm. Amen.

If you are so moved please Read:

<http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201603/climate-justice-matter-faith-30604>

<https://tifwe.org/jubilee-and-justice/>





Climate Justice Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the waters of the world that they may be restored to health and filled with bountiful life.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for Earth's soil, that its richness be protected to assure abundant harvest for all.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all creatures who share Earth with us, that their beauty and diversity will be preserved.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who have been and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for future generations. May they learn from our environmental irresponsibility and be good stewards, living simply and in harmony with all your creation.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all human beings, that we will be filled with a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; bring an end to the exploitation of the Earth's scarce resources, and live as responsible stewards protecting and respecting this gift of creation God has placed in our hands.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for wisdom for decision makers in the United States of America and around the world, that wealthy nations may make amendments for the harm they have done to the environment and find creative and just solutions to protect all of creation and to ensure climate justice.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

For all of the intentions we hold in our hearts.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.