

ST. PHILIP'S MILFORD PRAYER CIRCLE



Prayers for the Season of Creation

Thursday, September 19, 2024

READER: *As we begin this Prayer Circle, we acknowledge that we gather on the unceded territory of the Mississauga people, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudonosaunee, Algonquin and Huron Wendat People. May we honour the Indigenous stewards of this land, and work to grow in right relationship with all Indigenous peoples. We recognize that our Creator God moves us forward together in healing, respect, and unity for future generations.*

READER: Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.¹

READER: Surrounded as we are with constant devastating news about climate chaos, biodiversity loss and the ever-growing mountains of pollution it is easy to fall into despair. And yet as people of faith, we have hope - the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance of what we do not yet see (from Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see).

READER: Call to Prayer

As we quiet our hearts, let us be called in prayer (pause).

Come, let us worship God, who gifted us with life and Creation to sustain life.

ALL: We praise God for the wondrous Creation.

Come, let us follow Lord Jesus Christ, who inspires us to hope and act for justice

¹ All prayers and Bible recommendations from the Season of Creation 2024 Ecumenical Guide

and righteousness.

ALL: We give glory to God, who restores the groaning Creation and the vulnerable.

Come let us move with the Holy Spirit, striving to establish justice and produce the first fruits of hope.

ALL: We praise God for the abundant life that is assured to all Creation.

Heavenly Triune God and Creator of all, we gather here, made in the image of the Creator,

ALL: Who created in love.

We gather in the name of the redeemer, our Savior Jesus Christ,

ALL: Who reconciles all of Creation.

We gather in the presence of the life Giver, your Holy Spirit,

ALL: Who inspires new life and instills hope.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Our Psalm for today is 42

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"

4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

8 My soul is heavy within me; *
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.

9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.

10 The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; *
in the night season his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

11 I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you forgotten me? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?"

12 While my bones are being broken, *
my enemies mock me to my face;

13 All day long they mock me *
and say to me, "Where now is your God?"

14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?

and why are you so disquieted within me?

15 Put your trust in God; *

For I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

ALL: Gracious God, in the night of distress we forget the days of sun and joy. Even when we do not know your presence, preserve us from the dark torrent of despair. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

READER: A version of Kyrie Eleison for the Season of Creation:

Eternal God, the whole world is full of your glory. We bear forth the anguish of Creation in the time of the climate crisis to you. In your grace, grant us the opportunity to do good, as your created co-creators. Lord have mercy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

READER: Jesus Christ, you have walked the Earth and lived in our midst. Make us sensitive to the suffering of humankind and the entire creation. Strengthen us in our endeavors to create a life of dignity, in justice, and solidarity with those who live and will live. Lord have mercy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

READER: Holy Spirit, power of courage and self-control, you speak to our consciences. Comfort us when we suffer and are plagued by anxiety. Make us worry when we are numb in the calmness of complacency. Re-create us to become what we are: one humanity under the same sky. Lord have mercy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

READER: Our New Testament Reading is from Matthew 9:35-38:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew:

ALL: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

This is the word of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

READER: The Affirmation of Our Faith, for the Season of Creation, let us say together:

ALL: We have faith in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth,
who created all things good.

And we have faith in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear

God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers
for the wellbeing of life on Earth.

And we have faith in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle.

So that the Earth is inherited in peace,

her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.

So be it. Amen.

READER: Prayers for Hope and Our Acts with Creation:

God of the land, the sea, the sky:

Creator of all that is seen and unseen.

Open our hearts to the rhythm of Creation in the swells of the ocean, the movements
of air and wind, the breath of all living things.

Open our eyes to the fragile beauty of the biodiversity of which we are a part.

Open our ears to the sounds of life around us.

Open our minds to the awareness of our deep relationship with all your Creation.

Creator God:

ALL: May we hope and act with Creation.

READER: God of Light, Life and Love:

Help us to seek and find your presence in all Creation.

Help us to understand the roots of the ecological crisis and give us the wisdom to
live resiliently in harmony with your Creation.

Keep us firm in the faith that the gift of life in all its fullness is for all Creation.

Help us to maintain hope that your reign of love is manifested in our common love
for you, for ourselves, and for our neighbour - both human and non-human.

Creator God:

ALL: May we hope and act with Creation.

READER: God of truth and justice:

Fill us with your spirit of compassion so we may live and act with and in solidarity
with Creation.

Guide us in paths of righteousness that help us to tread softly on the land and sail
gently on the sea.

Give us wisdom and courage to recognise our role in the evil of systemic exploitation
and extraction and to speak truth to power.

Give us strength of heart and arm to be agents of the ecological conversion the
world so desperately needs.

Creator God:

ALL: May we hope and act with Creation. AMEN

READER: Prayers for Peace in our World:

In Christ, we are called not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

READER: We seek to discern the will of God, to do what is good and acceptable and perfect.

READER: Let us not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve God.

READER: We intend to live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation.

READER: Let us strive to live peaceably with all and share a sign of peace with one another.

ALL: We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

READER: A Benediction for the Season of Creation:

May God who can set Creation free, show us his glory.

ALL: Glory to God.

May God who knows our groaning and crying, bring about new life.

ALL: Now and always.

May God who helps us in our weakness, give us the first fruits of hope.

ALL: The Lord is our hope.

And may the Triune God sprinkle into our hearts the dew of his grace and bless us all.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and who has taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

AMEN