

Standing with Pope Francis

Caring for Our Common Home

Welcome:

Sing: "Canticle of the Sun"

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Opening: Quotes from Laudato Si

The world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.
#12

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.
#23

We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family.
#52

We need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair.
#61

"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river, and mother earth."
#92

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?
#160

Today we cannot help but recognize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach, which must integrate justice in the discussions of the environment, to hear the cry of the earth with the cry of the poor. . . We forget that we ourselves are Earth [Genesis 2:7]. Our own body is made of the elements of the planet, its air is what gives us breath and its water gives us life and restores.
#2

READER:

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare your glory; the arch of sky displays your handiwork. In your love you have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world robed in all its splendor. The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills, the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence. The roaring breakers of the seas tell of your awesome might; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air speak of your wondrous will. In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music of the world. You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation.
Traditional Jewish Prayer

Sung Response: Sacred the land, sacred the water, sacred the sky, holy and true. Sacred all life, sacred each other, all reflect God who is good.

READER:

We pray today for all of the people around the world who are facing the very real threat of having to leave their homes due to the effects of a changing climate. Whether because of salinized soil, rising tides or unbearable drought, millions of people are migrating to escape the effects of climate change. We remember today those for whom home is no longer a place of safety and shelter, but of change and uncertainty. Comfort and protect those who are forced to leave their homes and strengthen those who stay. Teach those of us whose homes are places of safe haven to open our hearts to those who seek refuge and protection. Amen
Christian Reformed Church of America

Sung Response: Sacred the land.....

We send our petitions to God:

We pray with gratitude for the precious gift of Creation and our neighbors with whom we share it.

All: Creating God, we give you thanks.

We pray that the agreement from the Paris Climate Conference will truly help us to care for our common home and for each other.

All: Creating God, hear us.

We pray for the next steps along the journey that governments and others must take. We ask that God will guide them in fulfilling their commitments justly and in raising their ambition to meet the needs of the world.

All: Creating God, send you Spirit.

We pray for the next steps along the journey that each of us must take, asking God to give us the grace to speak and live in ways that reflect God's love and justice

All: Creating God, guide us.

We pray that we can work together for God's glory; the good of Earth, our common home; and the good of all creation.

All: Creating God, help us.

Ways to integrate the encyclical's message into our lives:

Laudato Si Reader's Study Guide: <http://bit.ly/1SY3L3z>

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light: <http://iowaipl.org/> Join this group whose mission is to inspire and equip people of faith to become leaders in finding solutions to climate change.

Meatless Mondays: Cutting out meat and other animal products, even just for one day a week, can have a real impact on the environment as well as your health.

Interfaith Fast for the Climate: takes place the **first day of each month**. To take part in this international movement, you can fast from food (during the whole day or at least one meal) and/or from activities that produce carbon dioxide

(reducing our use of fossil fuels, electricity, plastic, paper and toxins).

Join the Global Catholic Climate Movement This organization offers "spiritual dimension, political dimension, and lifestyle dimension" resources to involve the Catholic family in work for climate justice. www.CatholicClimateMovement.global

Earth As Our Home Reflection/Action Booklet and accompanying Prayer Service: It takes a look at the various rooms of a house, placing each room and its activities into the broader context of our Earth-home. <http://bit.ly/1Zb0WgN>

Closing:

God of love, show us our place in this world
As channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
For not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
That they may avoid the sin of indifference,
That they may love the common good, advance the wealthy,
And care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
Help us to protect all life,
To prepare for a better future,
For the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you!

Amen

Laudato Si, Closing Prayer

We now bless this billboard and all who view it:

Sung Response: Sacred the land.....

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