



SEASON OF
CREATION

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION



Hymn: Spirit of God Marty Haugen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWxVXK96k7Y>

Spirit blowing through creation, Spirit burning in the skies
Let the hope of your salvation fill our eyes
God of splendor, God of glory, You who light the stars above
All the heavens tell the story of your love

Chorus: Spirit renewing the earth, renewing the hearts of all
people, burn in the weary souls, blow through the
silent lips ... Come now, awake us, Spirit of God

As you moved upon the waters, as you ride upon the wind
Move us all, your sons and daughters, deep within
As you shaped the hills and mountains, formed the land and filled the deep
Let your hand renew and waken all who sleep

Love that sends the rivers dancing, love that waters all that lives
Love that heals and holds and rouses and forgives
You are food for all your creatures; You are hunger in the soul
In your hands the broken-hearted are made whole.

Opening Prayer:

Triune God, Creator of all, we gather here,
made in the image of the Creator who created in love.
We gather in the name of Jesus Christ,
Who reconciles all of Creation.
We gather in the presence of the life Giver, your Holy Spirit,
Who inspires new life and instills hope.



World Council of Churches, Greece, November 2023

Readings

We know that the whole of creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labour, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Rom. 8: 22-25

We have returned to for hope:

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief.

Do justly now.

Love mercy now.

Walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.”

Excerpt from the Talmud

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning....

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

Earth Charter 2000

Blessing

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

Glory to God.

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

Now and always.

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

The Lord is our hope.

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

Amen.



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Triune God, Creator of all,
We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.



May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.



**“May our struggles
and our concern for
this planet never
take away the joy
of our hope.”**

Laudato Si



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Welcome:

Blessed be the name of God, God of our ancestors,
God of the generations yet to come.

Blessed be the Creating God, Redeeming Son and the Sustaining Spirit.
As we gather, we hear the groans of Creation and the cries of our sisters and
brothers. As we gather, we bring our seeds of hope, the first fruits of the Spirit.
Rev. Sikawu, Central Methodist Church, Cape Town

Readings:

That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who
is the Saviour of all. 1 Tim. 4:10

To sow seeds of real hope and action in our world,
to be Mercy I think Catherine would say:
This is the way we must do it: One person at a time,
One answering and opening of the figurative doorbell.
One embrace of the stranger,
One welcoming of the other,
One sharing of our bread and milk – one person at a time.
Sister Mary Sullivan



It is precisely because we are weary, and poor in spirit, that God can touch us with hope.
This is not an easy truth. It means that we do accept our common lot and take up our
share of the cross. It means that we do not gloss over the evils we confront every day,
both within ourselves and without. Richard Rohr

How am I/we sowing seeds of real hope and action in our world?



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Kyrie Eleison

Creator God, the whole world is full of your glory.

We carry the anguish of Creation in the time of climate crisis.

In your grace, grant us as co-creators with you the opportunity to do good.

Lord have mercy.

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 all creation.

Christ have mercy.

Holy Spirit, source of hope and courage,

comfort us when we suffer and are plagued by anxiety.

Let hope-filled action dispel the calmness of complacency.

Re-create us to become what we are: one humanity sharing a common home.

Lord have mercy.

Adapted - Prayer for the Climate - Bishops' Letter for the Climate- Sweden

Readings:

To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life is coming forth. Creation and all of us are called to worship the Creator, working together for a future of active hope and action. Only when we work together with Creation can the first fruits of hope be born.

SOC Guide 2024

Hope is being able to see that there is light - despite all the darkness.

Archbishop Tutu





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Opening Prayer:

God of hope, we know that You walk with us on our journey. As we look at our broken world, we see the suffering of Earth and Earth's creatures. Give us a new sense of hope, a deeper conviction of Your presence and action in our midst. Bless all our efforts to be bearers of hope, peace and compassion to one another and to all who share this Earth with us. Amen.

Readings:

I watch in hope for the Lord. I wait for God, my Saviour. My God will hear me. Micah 7:7

There are different forms of hope. However, hope is not merely optimism. It is not a utopian illusion. It is not waiting for a magical miracle. Hope is trust that our action makes sense, even if the results of this action are not immediately seen (cf. Romans 8:24). Hope doesn't act alone. Earlier in his letter to the Romans, Paul the apostle explains the close relationship of hope as a growth process: "endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5:4). Patience and endurance are close associates of hope. These are qualities that lead to hope.

SOC Celebration Guide 2024

To choose hope is to step firmly forward into the howling wind,
baring one's chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass.

The Book of Joy -Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

What is my/our hope for our world at this moment in time?

**This is our greatest
hope for the future.**

**A lot of people doing
little things can make a
big difference!**

**There are small changes
you can make that will
be a huge help to our
planet.**





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Song: Lean In Toward The Light - Carrie Newcomer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxAUmNjWals>

Opening Prayer:

Laudate Deum, O God we praise you, for the world sings of your infinite love.
Forgive us our failure to agree to a way forward to protect this earth and our children's future,
for the way the powerful shelter behind their wealth,
while the poorest people are disregarded and the earth is at breaking point.

Guide our leaders to set aside their own interests in the interest of us all
and grant us all the courage to turn our concern into change.
Strengthen our faith and let us never lose hope, so together we may rise up
responding to the urgent call of your people and all creation. Amen. Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

Readings:

To hope and act with creation, then, means to live an incarnational faith, one that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled “flesh” of others, by sharing in the expectation of the bodily resurrection to which believers are predestined in Christ the Lord. In Jesus, the eternal Son who took on human flesh, we are truly children of the Father. Through faith and baptism, our life in the Spirit begins (Rom 8:2), a holy life, lived as children of the Father, like Jesus (Rom 8:14-17), since by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in us (Gal 2:20). In this way, our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness.

Pope Francis Message for Season of Creation, June 27, 2024

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew
That even as we hurt, we hoped;
that even as we tired, we tried.
When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and
unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it;
if only we're brave enough to be it.



Amanda Gorman, The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country

We tune our lives to the wisdom of Earth
It is deep prayer, this listening to her cries, as Spirit's sighs, too deep for words

Unborn generations call to us from the future:
What did you do when the planet could no longer bear your foolishness and began to break?

The cardinal's whistle, once joy's message, is now a haunting lament
for the dwindling chorus of songbirds

The topsoil - living organism and not lowly dirt – clears its thinning, chemical-burned voice
And speaks out for the biotic kingdom teeming within this dark body

The willow drops her long arms around our shoulders and brushes us with grace,
whispering that it's not too late.

It falls to us, Wisdom's pupils, to turn this dirge into a dance of the cosmos.
Let those with ears to hear, rise up! Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*

Reflection: *How do we return to Earth the love, care and sustainment we receive from her?*



Blessing:

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

Glory to God.

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

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