



LAUDS

SEASON OF CREATION

Saint Francis of Assisi

4 OCTOBER 2020



*Photo on front cover of budding elm tree, Saint Mark's Fitzroy
18 September 2020*



The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

From: www.seasonofcreation.org/about



THE ANGELUS

✝ The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.**

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ,
by the message of an angel, ✝ so by his cross and passion
we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection,
for he is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

INTRODUCTION

✦ O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.**

A SONG OF GOD'S GREATNESS

Psalm 104:1,2,2b,22a,26,32,33,35

Bless the Lord, O my soul: *

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and honour: *
wrapped in light as in a garment.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

The sun knows the time of its setting: *

You make darkness that it may be night.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! *

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created: *

And you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *

May the Lord rejoice in his works;

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *

I will make music to my God while I have my being.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.
Amen.

We sit for the psalmody and reading.

PSALMODY

Psalm 97

You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.
You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

**For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!

You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.

Most high and holy God,
enthroned in fire and light,
burn away the dross of our lives
and kindle in us the fire of your love,
that our lives may reveal the light and life
we find in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Psalm 148

O praise the name of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!**

O praise the name of the Lord.

O glorious God,
your whole creation sings your marvellous work;
may heaven's praise so echo in our hearts
that we may be good stewards of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Continue with the Canticle

CANTICLE

Colossians 1:13-18a, 19, 20a

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

The Father has rescued us from the power of darkness
and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers
—all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end.

Amen.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

SCRIPTURE READING

WEEK FIVE

Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

RESPONSORY

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Your word brings on the dusk of evening.

Your wisdom creates both night and day.

You determine the cycles of time.

You arrange the succession of seasons
and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

The Lord of hosts is your name.

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

The Benedictus follows. We stand for the Benedictus

BENEDICTUS

Guide our feet into the way of peace.

**✦ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.**

**To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of God, the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

Guide our feet into the way of peace.

Go to pages 13 for the intercessions.

INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, creator of the Universe,
you know every creature and its needs.
With great trust we offer our petitions in the name of all creation.

That the Churches and ecclesial communities may respond
to the signs of the times expressed in the cry of nature,
wounded by humankind's inability to recognize its vocation
to be the custodian of all that exists, let us pray.

God, you who love all life, hear us!

That international organizations may speak out strongly
against the exploitation of the resources
so generously offered by Mother Earth,
and for those many brothers and sisters
who live in need due to waste and abuse
on the part of individuals and nations, let us pray.

God, you who love all life, hear us!

That those involved in political life, and every citizen as well,
may grow in the awareness that any behavior
that does not respect the environment
damages human coexistence
and undermines the foundations of peace, let us pray.

God, you who love all life, hear us!

That those who believe in God may promote
in their own religious traditions
a spirituality and praxis that is consistent
with a recognition of the goodness of creation,
thus contributing to the growth
of a world of love, justice and peace
where all living things praise the Creator, we pray.

God, you who love all life, hear us!

That young people may be inspired by the example of Saint Francis to make mature lifestyle choices that are selfless and sustainable, promote the care and safeguarding of ecosystems, guarantee access to all basic resources, and encourage practices that respect the fundamental rights of the human person and of every creature, let us pray.

God, you who love all life, hear us!

O gracious God, giver of all that is good, we bless you for having given us life to share with so many other creatures. Through them and with them we praise you and ask that you continue to pour out your Spirit upon the universe, and in it to show forth your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From Franciscans for Ecology.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Master, grant that I may not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are raised to eternal life.

A prayer attributed to Saint Francis but dating from the 20th century

CONCLUSION

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

The Lord bless us, **+**
and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Let us stay here in the peace of Christ,
thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This liturgy comprises materials from the website seasonofcreation.org as well as Common Worship, the prayer book of the Church of England. Psalms and scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the bible.



Street: 250 George Street, (Corner of Moor St) Fitzroy
Postal: PO Box 124, Fitzroy Victoria 3065

Parish Priest: Fr Stuart Soley SCP
Phone: 03 9419 5051
E-mail: frstuart@stmarksfitzroy.com
Website : stmarksfitzroy.com
Facebook : facebook.com/stmarksfitzroy
facebook.com/stmarksfitzroychoir
facebook.com/stmarksrecycled