SEASON OF CREATION

CELEBRATION GUIDE 2022

Listen to the Voice of Creation

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Introduction

Thank you for bringing your community together for the Season of Creation. 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.

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 wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it.

This year, the theme for the season is **Listen to the Voice of Creation.**

This guide will help you learn about the Season and plan to celebrate it. More resources, including webinars and prayer services, a Facebook page, and photos, are available online. Please visit SeasonOfCreation.org to access all the materials.

Season of Creation Steering Committee

actalliance
ANGLICAN COMMUNION ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
A INTERNATIONAL ROCHA Conservation and Hope
christian aid
DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
european christian environmental network
LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT
Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network
THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION
oikoumene World Council of Churches
World Communion of Reformed Churches
WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

Faith leaders' invitation to join the Season of Creation

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home.

The Season "Celebration" begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year we will unite around the theme, "Listen to the Voice of Creation."

The Psalmist declares, "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge…***their voice is not heard;*** yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world." (19: 1-4)

During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

May this 2022 Season of Creation renew our ecumenical unity, renewing and uniting us by our bond of Peace in one Spirit, in our call to care for our common home. And may this season of prayer and action be a time to Listen to the Voice of Creation, so that our lives in words and deeds proclaim good news for all the Earth.

In God's grace,

Members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee

Members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee:

Bishop Marc Andrus, Episcopal Diocese of California

Rev. Dr Dave Bookless, Director of Theology, A Rocha

Rev. Ed Brown, Care of Creation and Lausanne Catalyst for Creation Care

Bishop Rt. Rev. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian, National Council of Churches in India

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Metropolitan of Zimbabwe Serafim Kykotis, Greek Orthodox Archbishopric of Zimbabwe and Angola

Mr. Marcelo Leites, General Secretary, World Student Christian Federation

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Sr. Patricia Murray, Executive Secretary, International Union Superiors General

Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross, Ecumenical Relationships, World Methodist Council

Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Dr. Paulo Ueti, Theological Advisor & Latin American Regional Director, Anglican Alliance

Bishop Graham Usher, Church of England lead Bishop on the Environment

Dr. Ruth Valerio, Director Global Advocacy and Influencing, Tearfund

Dr. Konstantinos Zormpas, Orthodox Academy of Crete

2022 Season of Creation Theme: Listen to the Voice of Creation

Each year, the ecumenical steering committee that provides this Celebration Guide proposes a theme for the Season of Creation. The theme for 2022 is: ***Listen to the Voice of Creation***.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have become familiar with the concept of being muted during virtual conversations. Often, people using a platform do not have the capacity to unmute themselves. Even more do not even have access to digital platforms, and so their voices are never heard. Many voices are muted in public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping. These are the voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change. These are the voices of those who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are the voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. It is the voice of the Earth. The 2022 Season of Creation theme raises awareness of our need to listen to the voice of all creation.

The Psalmist (19: 1-4) acknowledges that hearing the voice of creation requires a kind of listening that is increasingly rare. Within the ecumenical Christian family, there is a diverse range of traditions to help us recover our capacity to hear the voice of creation. Some of the earliest Christian writings refer to the concept of creation as a book from which knowledge of God can be read. The theological tradition of the book of creation runs like a golden thread from the writings of Origen through the Patristic writers such as Tertullian, Basil of Caesarea and others. Like the Psalmist, St. Maximus reminds us that the entire cosmos praises and glorifies God 'with silent voices', and that praise is not heard until we give it a voice, until we praise God in and with creation. St. Augustine writes, "[Creation] is the divine page that you must listen to; it is the book of the universe that you must observe. The pages of Scripture can only be read by those who know how to read and write, while everyone, even the illiterate, can read the book of the universe." Martin Luther wrote, "God has written [the gospel] not only in books, but also in trees and other creatures."

A "book" or a scroll was meant to be read aloud, and therefore, it was a spoken word that was meant to be heard. The scrolls, and books of Scripture were meant to be read aloud, breathed into a community, and heard as proclamation. The Psalmist who declares that creation proclaims God's handiwork also knows that the book of Scripture perfectly revives the soul, makes the simple wise, rejoices the heart, and enlightens the eyes. (Psalm 19:7-8) The book of creation and the book of Scripture are meant to be "read" side by side.

Care must be taken not to confuse the two books, nor to blur the lines between reason and revelation. But what we "hear" from creation is more than a metaphor drawn from our understanding of ecology and climate science. It is more than the biological and physical sciences that have shaped the dialogue between theology and the natural sciences since the scientific revolution. In his encyclical on Faith and Reason, Pope John Paul II recognized that while Christ is the heart of God's revelation, creation was the first stage of that revelation. The harmonies that emerge when we contemplate the books of creation and Scripture form our cosmology about who we are, where we are, and how we are called to live in right relationships with God and our co-creatures.

Contemplation opens us to many modes of listening to the book of creation. Psalm 19 says that creatures speak to us of the Creator. The harmonious balance of biodiverse ecologies and the suffering cries of creation are both echoes of the Divine because all creatures have the same origin and ending in God. Listening to the voices of our co-creatures is like perceiving truth, goodness or beauty through the lives of a human friend and family member. Learning to listen to these voices helps us become aware of the Trinity, in which creation lives, moves and has its being. Jürgen Moltmann calls for "a discernment of the God who is present in creation, who through his Holy Spirit can bring men and women to reconciliation and peace with nature."

The Christian Tradition helps us learn to listen to the book of creation. Christian spirituality is replete with practices that move our bodies to contemplation in words and silence. Liturgical and spiritual practices are accessible from early childhood to adulthood. Cultivating a spirituality of active listening helps us to discern the voices of God and our neighbours amongst the noise of destructive narratives. Contemplation moves us from despair to hope, from anxiety to action!

For Christians, Jesus Christ holds the two "books" of creation and Scripture together. Faced with the reality of brokenness, suffering and death, Christ's incarnation and resurrection becomes the hope for reconciling and healing the Earth. The book of Scripture proclaims God's Word so that we can go into the world and read the book of creation in a way that anticipates this Gospel. In turn, the book of creation helps us to hear the book of Scripture from the perspective of all creation that waits with eager longing for the good news. Christ becomes a key to discern God's gift and promise for all creation, and particularly those who suffer or are already lost to us.

During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. Communities of worship can amplify the voices of young people, Indigenous people, women and affected communities who are not heard in society. Through liturgies, public prayers, symbolic acts and advocacy, we can remember those who are displaced or have disappeared from public spaces and political processes.

Listening to the voice of creation offers members of the Christian family a rich entry point for interfaith and interdisciplinary dialogue and practice. Christians walk a shared path as those who hold different kinds of knowledge and wisdom in all cultures and sectors of life. By listening to the voice of all creation, humans joined in our vocation to care for our common home (*oikos*).

2022 Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of All,
From your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationships with each creature so that we could listen to their voices, and learn how to safeguard the conditions for life. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures.

We close our ears to the counsel of our fellow creatures. We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth. We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats that will never speak again. We grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished. Creation cries out as forests crackle, and animals alike flee the fires of injustice that we have lit by our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that you would call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Breathe upon us. Open our ears and move our hearts. Turn us from our inward gaze. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory. For “faith comes from hearing.”

Give us hearts to listen for the good news of your promise to renew the face of the Earth. Enlighten us with the grace to follow the Way of Christ as we learn to walk lightly upon this holy ground. Fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

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

2022 Season of Creation Logo: The Burning Bush

"I have heard their cry…I know their sufferings…Come, now! I will send you…I will be with you" (Ex 3:1-12)

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. We invite you to use the symbol during your events. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Human greed, desertification and land misuse lead to the disintegration of ecosystems, the destruction of habitats, and the loss of livelihoods and species at an alarming rate. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This was a flame of the Spirit that revealed God's life sustaining presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed faithfully to deliverance from injustice. During the Season of Creation, this symbol calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action.

Moses was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground in God's presence. May this symbol move us to remove the "sandals" of our unsustainable lifestyles that disconnect us from creation and our Creator, contemplate our connection to the holy ground where we live, and listen for the voice of creation.

We invite you to consider the resource appended to this Celebration Guide that describes ways to create a *Burning Bush*, and to use them during or in preparation for the Season of Creation.

As you celebrate this Season of Creation, light candles or a new Easter fire, adorn a bush in your place of worship or action, and be filled with hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of God's healing love that sustains our common home.

Ideas to Celebrate the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. It is an annual ecumenical season where we pray and act together as a Christian family for our common home.

There are many different ways to celebrate the Season. The ecumenical Season of Creation network has suggested a few ideas, which are available below. Be sure to visit SeasonofCreation.org for other ideas and campaigns, including denomination-specific initiatives.

As you are planning your event, be sure to register it on the website at SeasonOfCreation.org. When you register, your celebration will become visible on the global Season of Creation map to inspire others and increase attendance. We will also contact you to provide additional resources.

However you celebrate, be sure to share your experience!

Photos and videos

- Be sure to take photos of your community in action. Your photos will be shared with people around the world, and could inspire prayers and action to protect creation. (*kindly ask consent to share people's images, and refrain from close ups of children without parent/guardian permission*). Please upload your photos at SeasonOfCreation.org.

Social media and blogs

- Post images and stories while you plan and during your celebration. Be sure to tag your post or tweet with #SeasonofCreation, and it will appear on the Season of Creation website. You can also follow our Facebook and Twitter pages.

- Join our English-language Facebook page and share your experiences.
- Write a blog post about your community's Season of Creation celebration, and use #SeasonofCreation, and post on your own social media or church websites.

Pray and worship

Prayer is at the centre of our lives. Praying together deepens our relationship with God and one another, strengthens faith, and brings forth new gifts of the Spirit. As Jesus said, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them” (Matthew 18:20).

Consider developing a Season of Creation banner that can be hung in your church or organisation during the weeks of Season of Creation. If you are a worship leader, you might also consider using liturgical vestments with the Season of Creation logo. Templates for banners and liturgical vestments can be found on the Season of Creation website to be downloaded and brought to a local printshop or silkscreening shop.

The following suggestions will help you shape a prayer or worship service during the Season of Creation.

Lectionary and Sermon notes for the Season of Creation

You will find sermon notes in English at this website (from the Revised Common Lectionary): **www.preachingforgodsworld.org**

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sep 4	**Jeremiah 18; 1-11**	**139: 1-6, 13-18**	**Philemon 1-21**	**Luke 14: 25- 33**
Sep 11	**Jeremiah 4: 11-22, 22-28**	**14**	**1 Timothy 1: 12-17**	**Luke 15: 1-10**
Sep 18	**Jeremiah 8: 18- 9:1**	**79:1-9**	**1 Timothy 2: 1-7**	**Luke 16: 1-13**
Sep 25	**Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15**	**91: 1-6, 14-16**	**1 Timothy 6: 6-19**	**Luke 16: 19-31**
Oct 2nd St Francis	**Lamentations 1:1-6**	**137**	**2 Timothy: 1-14**	**Luke 17: 5-10**

Host an ecumenical prayer service

Hosting a prayer service is a simple and beautiful way to celebrate the Season. While a prayer service that stays within your church community is welcomed, this Season offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with Christians outside of your denomination or network.

If interested, contact local Christian communities of denominations different from your own, and ask the clergy or justice coordinator whether he/she would like to collaborate in co-hosting a prayer service for the Season of Creation. If you send an email, be sure to share a link to the Season of Creation website and to include information about the season.

In light of this year's theme, see how you might encourage people to contemplate and intentionally amplify the voices of the most vulnerable in your community. You might also consider taking up a collection to support a particular issue.

Start with the event checklist. Ask all participating communities to advertise the service. Broadcasting information via social media, print and web media will ensure good attendance and lead to a diverse, dynamic celebration. Sample flyers, bulletin inserts, and pulpit announcements are online. Appoint either one clergy person or a group of clergy people from participating churches to lead the prayer service.

Below, we provide a prayer service developed for Season of Creation 2022 that you can use and adapt to your context.

Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation

An ecumenical working group has created an order of prayer based on this year's theme, ***Listen to the Voice of Creation***. We encourage you to use this prayer service to mark the beginning and end of the Season of Creation, at events that you host during the season, or to incorporate into your community's worship throughout the Season.

As you plan your service, consider featuring a *Burning Bush* in the midst of the prayer service as a symbol of the community's intention to remove our sandals as we recognize the Earth as holy ground, and listen for the voice of God, and the voice of creation praising God. You may also wish to set the space with natural items that ensure our worship includes the voice of the land and creatures who share our common home.

You may access the full text of the service by following this link to the appendix at the end of this Celebration Guide.

Integrate creation related themes and the Burning Bush into Sunday liturgies

Encourage your pastor/priest to preach a sermon on creation or integrate creation themes into prayers or Bible studies during the Season of Creation. Each week, lectionaries provide an opportunity to explore the Season of Creation theme. Here you will find reflections on the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel readings for each week during the Season of Creation. More ideas can be found at www.preachingforGodsworld.org

Consider how creation themes can also be incorporated into other aspects of the service, such as the procession, offertory, Eucharistic prayers, children's messages and more.

Consider creating a *Burning Bush* in the church or church garden as a symbol of the community's intention to remove our sandals as we recognize the Earth as holy ground, and to listen for the voice of God, and the voice of creation praising God. Communities could be invited to pray for and with the vulnerable of the community. The bush could be present in liturgies or events throughout the Season of Creation as a symbol of the community's intention to ***Listen***.

Hold your worship service outside

To celebrate God's creation fully, it is good, where practical, to take our worship outside a building and to worship in the context of God's creation–which is already worshipping God eloquently as every creature, and even mountains, rivers and trees worship the Lord simply by doing what God created them to do.

You might like to consider a site of environmental significance. If it is a place of great natural beauty, the focus would be on giving thanks to God and committing ourselves to protecting the site and others. If it is a place of environmental degradation, the focus is on confessing our environmental sins and lamenting the voices of co-creatures who have been lost, and committing to actions of healing and restoration.

Depending on your style of worship and the weather, consider an informal service or brief Eucharist that incorporates the ecumenical prayer service offered in this Celebration Guide, or other creation-centered liturgies.

For your offering, ask children and adults to gather symbols from nature and take them to the holy table. These symbols can represent the "fruit of the earth and work of human hands" alongside the bread and wine, and serve as a reminder of the voices of all creation that joins in the feast.

Include a moment of silence to listen to, and wordlessly join in with the song of creation's worship. Or, play birdsong or whalesong, in the place of singing as you come to the table.

In place of the sermon, divide into groups for a short Bible study.

Consider including a *Burning Bush* in your worship space. Invite people to pray for and with all creatures (human and more-than-human) who have been silenced, or need to be heard. The bush can also be present in liturgies or events throughout the Season of Creation as a symbol of the community's intention to listen to the voices of creation.

Organise a Creation Walk or Pilgrimage

Organise a contemplative walk outside to meditate on the gift of God's creation and our response to be in deeper communion with all life. Organise a pilgrimage to a significant ecological site or a site that witnesses ecological or social injustice. Invite a group to study ecologically themed Scriptures, or pray with ecologically themed prayers such those that can be found in the Laudato Si' Movement prayer book, while walking. Consider joining the Pilgrim's WalkforFuture "Global Walk for Future" on 3 September. Your pilgrimage could also culminate in a prayer service, or the Earth Examen included below in this Celebration Guide.

Engage your local ecology through this Earth Examen:

An examen is a way of beholding an object or being present in prayerful wonder. Through a series of questions, you are invited to reflect on God's presence and the goodness of that which you behold. During this Season of Creation, consider contemplating a part of your local ecology. This is an exercise that you can choose to do alone, or with a group.

Pick a natural or agricultural place to contemplate. A forest, river, or city street with a natural area. An urban park or a farmer's field. A hilltop or a meadow. Find a comfortable place to rest in or near this place. Enter into prayer in whatever way is natural to you. Invite Holy Wisdom to open the eyes of your heart. When you are ready, this resource will guide you in this spiritual practice. You may follow the link to the website, or the appendix to this Celebration Guide.

Encourage sustainable living

Make sustainable lifestyle changes on an individual level

The Season of Creation is a wonderful time to reflect on how our lifestyles affect the environment and to make a commitment to more sustainable ways of living. The good news is that making more sustainable lifestyle choices in just a few areas adds up to a big difference overall. As the saying goes, "Let us live simply so that others may simply live." Living simply is a way to ensure our planet is truly a home for all.

- Calculate your carbon footprint using an online calculator like this one
- Engage a small group of people in your community to join you in the group to pray, reflect, and support one another

Make sustainable changes on an institutional level

Changes at institutional level can have a huge impact and result in tangible reductions in negative environmental impacts.

- Practice the **Roadmap for Congregations, Communities and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice** developed by the World Council of Churches to change the way we deal with the economy and our ecological surroundings.
- Conduct an **energy audit** of your institution's facilities to look at key areas such as heating, lighting, ventilation and insulation that offer many opportunities for immediate footprint reduction.
- Many Church networks now have platforms to support families, churches and congregations that want to make sustainability changes. A Rocha has developed Eco-Church. The Episcopal Church has this pledge. The Vatican has launched the "Laudato Si Action Platform" , to support Catholic Institutions and families to move toward total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology and Laudato Si'.
- Connect with other faith networks committed to sustainability. The Change for the Planet: Care for the People initiative has videos, stories, and initiatives to inspire and support sustainable lifestyles.

Hold a Sustainability Event

- Organise a beach or waterway clean up during International Coastal Clean Up in September. A Rocha offers a toolkit to host a beach clean-up.

- Take your clean up a step further by including a **plastics brand audit,** a citizen science initiative organised by Break Free from Plastics that involves counting and documenting the brands found on plastic waste collected at a cleanup to help identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution.
- Hold an educational event where you serve a meal that is good for the climate!
- Start a **community garden** that can support and invite the local community to participate. See here for how to make your garden a climate garden.
- Consider having an ecumenical **tree planting event** that incorporates a prayer service. Guidance for how to select a tree and choose a site is here. You can link it to the 75 trees sustainability event to support UN Initiative on Climate Change
- Develop or start a healthy habitat to help restore local lands and support local biodiversity such as this Saint Kateri Habitat. More information is available here in the World Wildlife Fund Biodiversity Toolkit.

Advocacy: Participate in campaigns that call for ecological restoration

Amplifying marginalised voices

Our theme this year focuses on listening to those voices, which are not heard. They include women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, youth, the economically marginalised and people suffering from systemic racism. These are the diverse voices of those who have the least, whether they live in developed or developing nations. Many are already responding to climate-change related catastrophes and the loss of biodiversity. They have contributed the least to the climate crisis yet suffer the most from climate injustice such as environmental racism and gender injustice.

They have voices, and they have raised them, but what they have said has not led to enough action at the global level. We are called to amplify their voices through advocacy. Advocacy based on evidence is meant to influence powerful decision-makers to address the root causes of injustice, fulfil human rights, and promote the well-being of all. Evidence includes what those affected have to say, their experiences and their solutions.

Advocacy is not the same as speaking on behalf of someone, but is rather lifting up what they have said, and making sure it is heard by those who hold power. Advocacy can be a potent way for us to amplify the voices of those who are too often silenced or ignored, a way of showing solidarity, and a way of living our faith. [Proverbs 31:9]

Faith communities or faith-based organisations work with the marginalised who are most impacted by climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The marginalised should form the basis and the voice of the advocacy we do at a global level.

Advocacy begins with careful listening and dialogue, moves through contemplative reflection and leads to action.

Advocacy at the global level: COP 27 and COP 15

Two important global events are planned for the third quarter. Both can benefit from the knowledge and solutions of marginalised communities, those whose voices are not heard. Both events can make a huge difference in their lives.

COP27: Climate change

Important policies are decided at the United Nations' annual climate change conference. Here the world comes together to make binding promises on how to lessen climate change and support the most vulnerable countries and communities as they suffer the impact of a changing climate. COP27 takes place in Egypt November 7 to 18.

In the lead up to COP27, and at the event, you can advocate for necessary funds for marginalised communities to help them implement the many solutions that will work in their circumstances. Particularly important this year is securing adequate financing for communities to adapt to the loss and damage done to land, livelihoods, cultures, species and peoples by the effects of climate change, and ensuring that the needs of marginalised women are at the centre of all climate plans.

COP15: Biodiversity

The Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity (COP15) will be held in Kunming, China, later in 2022.

It is time to hear and amplify what Indigenous peoples, women and girls, migrants, youth and the Earth are saying about their experiences with biodiversity. The world must hear the knowledge of these communities in order to find solutions to the impacts of climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

Ecumenical commitments to care for our common home:

Together we commit to:

- Hear and amplify the voices and solutions of those most affected by biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.
- Locally-led ecosystem preservation and restoration must be acknowledged at global events.
- Protecting people, the planet and all of nature, including natural ecosystems, is a priority over profit.
- Ensure that human rights, social justice and the integrity of creation are at the centre of the response to the current climate and biodiversity crises.

What we can do

Below are ideas of how we can listen to marginalised voices on care for our common home, reflect on what they have said, and move to action.

1. Listen

Listen to messages produced by or featuring people from marginalised communities. These might be statements, webinars, videos or social media posts, for example, this video from Christian Aid on Climate and Racial Justice. You can invite faith leaders, clergy, bishops and policy leaders to listen and ask them to invite other leaders to listen.

2. Reflect

Engage in contemplative reflection on what marginalised communities have said. Vigils, prayer walks, prayer services and social media conversations with people in marginalised communities are all ways of doing this. Some groups met regularly for virtual prayer and meditation leading up to COP26; because they got to know each other, some became active in more local actions.

3. Act

Engage in activities related to what you have heard and contemplated. It might be a personal commitment to reducing emissions; it could be amplifying silenced voices of the marginalised at the national or global level. Join a group that is active on these issues, whether at the local, regional or global level. Learn more about what communities of faith or faith-based organisations are doing.

Many groups work on statements, resolutions, or messages that will go to COP15 and COP27 conferences; others approach decision-makers in their country who will be present at these conferences.

Throughout, amplify what you have heard from marginalised communities.

Actions

You can learn more, and join some of the below actions currently underway, or follow the activities of global communities of faith or organisations. Here are a few options.

- Change your own behaviour, as recommended by the IPCC in its 6th report, launched April 2022. "Having the right policies, infrastructure and technology in place to enable changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can result in a 40-70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050," said IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Priyadarshi Shukla in the report's press release.
    - Become more aware of the importance of marginalised communities and their knowledge in reducing climate change impacts. "When it comes to working with nature to fight climate change, we cannot achieve effective action without the **leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities** (IPLCs)"
    - Learn about the call for "Climate-Responsible Finance – A moral imperative and responsibility to all children and the living world," a joint, interfaith appeal by the World Council of Churches, the UN Environment Programme and others. "For too long, the financial services sector has enabled the world's fossil fuel addiction," said UN secretary general Antonio Guterres. "It is now time for financial service providers to accelerate the shift to renewables. They have the power – and the responsibility."
    - Find out what your country is doing about its climate pledges (called nationally determined contributions or NDCs).
    - Consider joining the movement calling for a moratorium on all new fossil fuel exploration. You may wish to endorse the fossil fuel non proliferation treaty.
    - Visit the Laudato Si website for resources and events.
    - Follow the Twitter accounts of global faith-based organisations working on these issues year-round: two are ACT Alliance Climate Justice Twitter account: https://twitter.com/home and the Lutheran World Federation Action for Justice account: @LWFadvocacy. There are many others.
    - Encourage your organisation, parish etc to divest from fossil fuels. Hold a divestment event - invite a speaker to address your parish or Diocese about divestment or degrowth. For example, the divestment campaigns of Bright Now, or Laudato Si' Movement
    - Educate, support and sign on to campaigns such as this letter for faith leaders to call for fossil fuel non-proliferation.

Advocacy asks for governments

Use advocacy with your own government leaders. Ask them to commit to the following points, which are based on what the marginalised have said.

- Take urgent action to limit warming to the 1.5°C temperature target and put in place legislation, policies and measures to achieve this target in a sustainable manner.
- Stop biodiversity collapse and uphold indigenous people at the centre of biodiversity protection
- Put Green House Gas-neutral nature-based solutions at the heart of climate action. This will improve the resilience of communities, including Indigenous peoples, and countries, based on locally-led ecosystem preservation and restoration.
- Put in place policies and legislation to achieve global net-zero emissions as soon as possible. These should include phasing out fossil fuels, investing in renewable and nature-friendly energy for all, and conserving and restoring natural ecosystems. High-emitting countries must take the lead in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities principle.
- Adequately finance the promised Loss and Damage facility so that funds start to flow as quickly as possible. A significant proportion of climate finance must be channelled through locally-led mechanisms.
- Create a fair and equitable gender transformational international finance mechanism for Loss and Damage. Women must be involved in all stages of determining responses and financing related to a changing climate: from being consulted on needs through to implementing responses and deciding how funds are best spent. Provide this financing as grants, not loans.
- Based on the 'Polluters Pay' principle, ensure that fossil fuel companies contribute towards the cost of Loss and Damage through climate damage taxes. Governments and the private sector must urgently identify the best means by which to secure this contribution.

Global calendar of events

While each Christian community around the world celebrates the Season of Creation in its own way, a few events present opportunities to tie all communities together, and you can access them through the global calendar of events on the Season of Creation website . You are particularly invited to join two online prayer services that will mark the opening and closing of the Season of Creation.

September 1: Online Prayer Service for Creation Day/World Day of Prayer for Creation

Creation Day, also called the World Day of Prayer for Creation, opens the season each year. Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew, the World Council of Churches, and many other leaders have called the faithful to celebrate it. Christian leaders will be gathering in Assisi for an ecumenical prayer service. Globally, Christians are invited to join an online prayer service to come together in a joyful celebration of our common cause. More information can be found at SeasonofCreation.org.

October 4: St. Francis Day

Many traditions view St. Francis as an inspiration and guide for those who protect creation. October 4 is his feast day and the last day in the Season of Creation. The faithful around the world will come together in an online prayer service to reflect on how St. Francis has informed their spiritual journey and to celebrate our month-long journey together. You can find registration information about the online prayer service on the Season of Creation website and social media.

Join us on social media

Join us in prayer and reflection and share exciting news about your celebration on social media. A supportive global community is forming on Facebook and Twitter.

Join the global community by using the #SeasonOfCreation hashtag on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Hashtag posts may appear on the Season of Creation website.

We invite you to like or follow the Season of Creation Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as join the Season of Creation public group to get inspiring updates and join the conversation.

About the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. It runs annually from September 1 through October 4. The Season of Creation is a liturgical season of prayer and action that unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose - celebrate prayer services and engage in a variety of actions to care for creation.

History

September 1 was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. It was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001, and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015.

In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of St. Francis that is observed by some Western traditions. St. Francis is the author of the Canticle of the Creatures, and the Catholic saint of those who promote ecology.

Several statements from the past few years have called the faithful to observe this month-long season, such as those of the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines in 2003, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007 and the World Council of Churches in 2008.

The Steering Committee

As the urgent need to solve the environmental crisis continued to grow, Christian churches strengthened their united response. The Season of Creation ecumenical steering committee came together to provide resources to empower Christians respond to our faith, during this shared season of prayer and action.

The steering committee is comprised of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, Lausanne/World Evangelical Alliance Creation Care Network, Laudato Si' Movement, the European Christian Environmental Network, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Church Unity Commission, Christian Aid, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and ACT Alliance.

As an ecumenical network, we are inspired by the urgent call from Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, "for a new dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet" and "We require a new and universal solidarity" where the most vulnerable are supported and to enable them to in dignity. We invite you to join us in these efforts.

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We are grateful to the following people who contributed to the creation, development, and editing of this publication.

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Appended Resource 1:
Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation

Listen to the Voice of Creation

We encourage you to use this prayer service to mark the beginning and end of the Season of Creation, at events that you host during the season, or to incorporate into your community's worship throughout the Season.

As you plan your service, consider featuring a Burning Bush in the midst of the prayer service as a symbol of the community's intention to remove our sandals as we recognize the Earth as holy ground, and listen for the voice of God, and the voice of creation praising God. You may also wish to set the space with natural items that ensure our worship includes the voice of the land and creatures who share our common home.

Leader parts are in regular font, ***congregational responses are in bold****.*

Welcome

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

Greeting

Greetings in the name of our God who is good:

whose love endures forever.

Greetings to you, sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Greetings to you, mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:
give to our God your thanks and praise.
Greetings to you, kauri and pine, rata and kowhai, mosses and ferns, Baobab, fynbos,
yellowwood and aloe:
give to our God your thanks and praise.
Greetings to you, dolphins and kahawai, sea lion and crab,
coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:
give to our God your thanks and praise.
Greetings to you, rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs
kiwi and sparrow and tui and hawk:
Elephant, lions, rhinos, and giraffes, ostrich, sheep, cattle
Scorpion and dung beetle:
give to our God your thanks and praise.
Greetings to you, women and men,
Elders and children, women and men,
Diverse cultures of this rainbow land:
Typists and teachers, cleaners, and clerks,
learners, job-seekers, TV and sports' stars,
All who care, who love and who pray,
Who laugh and learn, who rest and who play.
give to our God your thanks and praise.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa page 457, Lynn Pedersen 2016, Inspired by Ps 148 & Song of Creation, New Zealand Prayer Book)

Psalmody

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous. *(Psalm 19)*

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

Thanksgiving for the Earth

Remember the fruits of the earth, for sowing and for harvest.

Remember the dew of the air.

Remember the downcoming of the rains and the waters and the rivers.

Remember the plants and the blooms of every year.

Remember the safety of humans and of animals and of me, your sinful servant.

For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants, the fruit of the trees and also the vineyards, and for every tree in the entire world,

We are grateful

For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection in safety and peace, forgives us our sins, brings us up according to their measure that we may grow and prosper through your grace, who makes the face of the earth to rejoice, waters her furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied and makes ready her seed-time and harvest,

We give You thanks

(adapted from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Pre-Anaphora, and Anaphora of Basil)

Song

Sing a hymn that praises God as Creator. If possible, find a hymn that is shared by all participating traditions. Click here for a list of creation-themed hymns.

Litany of lament and repentance

Three candles are lit to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women and biodiversity

God of our vibrant world,

You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other. Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognise the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced. We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the Earth. We all value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today.

We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life giving community.

Help us make a place where everyone is welcome and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another. Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

O God of the whole of creation.

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled.

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognise that it is your blessing for us. Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us. We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies and oil companies. Many are the voices of our sisters who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to treasure and protect the web of life.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please, Creator God , forgive us for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

(Adapted from a Prayer of Lament written by members of the four Religious Orders in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia)

A time of silence is kept as people go forward to extinguish candles in memory of communities that are being wiped out by environmental degradation and creatures that are becoming extinct. For the voices of women, indigenous people and creation that have been silenced.

We sing: Senzeni na? – What have we done?

Turn us O God, from our desire to turn in upon ourselves, refuse to hear the voices of our co-creatures. Call us again, open our ears. Gather us in to relationships of mutual care and listening. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth. Amen.

Reading of Scripture followed by preaching or reflections

We listen to the voice of God through the book of Scriptures. See the thematic readings offered at Preaching for God's World, or locally designate a text that reflects the particular context of your prayer service.

Song

Sing a hymn that praises the biodiversity of creation. If possible, find a hymn that is shared by all participating traditions. Click here for a list of creation themed hymns in multiple languages, or these thanks to Interfaith Power and Light.

Profession of Faith

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptises this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

(Gurukul Theological college, India / adapted by Keld B. Hansen 2009)

Offering and offertory prayer

You may want to have an offering, perhaps to collect money for a particular project or ministry that contributes to ecological restoration, or an aspect of climate justice that is significant in your location. You may want to listen to birdsong or showcase local plants, animals from your area as a way to raise awareness by listening to the voices from your local ecology praising God and calling us to care.

Intercessory Prayers

Loving God, even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she places her young near Your altar. You are attentive to all you have made.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, help us provide refuge to every animal and plant with whom we live. Help us be attentive to all you have made.

God, in whom all creation subsists,

Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, when Jesus cried out and gave up his Spirit, the earth shook and the rocks split. You are known by the whole of creation that listens to you.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Loving God, help us hear and know you just as the earth and rocks do. Help us to learn from the way in which we see creation recognise your glorious beauty.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Loving God, you are present in your creation and seek to heal her wounds. You can be found walking in the garden. Open our eyes to see you, the gardener.

God, who is present with your creation,

Help us be present too.

Loving God, we often abandon your creation and cause its wounds. Help us to follow in your footsteps and learn to walk in the garden like you.

God, who is present with your creation,

Help us be present too.

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: teach us to listen. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it. Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Amen

The Lord's prayer:

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us. *(or use the following adaptation)*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

(Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians)

Sharing of the Peace

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor, and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

Benediction

May God who established the dance of creation,

Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,

Who transforms chaos to order,

Lead us to transform our lives and the Church

To listen to the voice of all creatures,

That reflect God's glory in creation.

(adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

Appended Resource 2:
Engage your local ecology through this Earth Examen

An examen is a way of beholding an object or being in prayerful wonder. Through questions, you are invited to reflect on God's presence and the goodness of that which you behold. During this Season of Creation, consider contemplating a part of your local ecology. Familiarise yourself with the theme. Prepare by taking time to consider how you can best open your senses to listen to the voices that praise God, and draw our hearts to God's presence in that place of contemplation. This is an exercise that you can choose to do alone, or with a group.

Pick a natural or agricultural place to contemplate. A forest. A river. A city street with a natural area. An urban park. A farmer's field. A hilltop. Find a comfortable place to rest in or near this place. Enter into prayer in whatever way is natural to you. Invite Holy Wisdom to open the eyes of your heart. When you are ready, reflect on the following questions:

1. **Become aware of God's presence in a natural or agricultural place that you are contemplating.**

How is God present in this place? How does all the life you see exist in God's spirit? How do you feel knowing that the Holy Spirit has filled this place for geological ages, with every plant, animal, organism and mineral that has called this place home in the deep past, makes its home here with you now, and will live here with creatures in this place in the future? How do you feel knowing that you, earthling, belong to this place, are made of the same carbon, breathe the same air, are nurtured by the same cycles and life processes, and are enlivened by the same Spirit of the Creator?

2. **Reflect on the ecological cycles of this place with gratitude for all that it provides.**

What nutrient cycles are supported by this place? Is this a watershed that filters water? Is this a rainforest (tropical or deciduous) that fixes nutrients? Is this a meadow or field that fixes nitrogen? Is this a green space that absorbs CO2 and cleans the air? What plants, animals, microbes and minerals are sheltered here? How do they serve the whole earth in their being? For all that this place provides to nurture you and all that belong to this place, let a feeling of gratitude fill you.

3. **Listen for the voices that speak in this place, and pay attention to what you feel as you contemplate the health of this site.**

Fill your lungs with breath. Be attentive to what you feel (the air, grass, sand, soil, sun, rain) on your skin. Open your eyes (or close them and open the eyes of your heart). Open your ears to listen to the voices of creation in this place. Who are they? What do you hear them saying? Who is missing or lost from this place? What does their absence tell you?

Is this ecosystem healthy? How is this ecosystem at risk of illness? What are the keys to sustaining the equilibrium and balance of this place? What niches and diversity must be protected to maintain the health of this habitat? What are the sources of stress that threaten the balance of this particular ecosystem? Do those stresses drive your co-creatures from their home in this place? How do you feel when you consider the fragility of life that depends on the health of this place? What is your effect on this balance?

4. **Choose one feature of the site and pray for it, its rest and its renewal.**

When you consider the ways that this place is under stress, what does it need for rest, restoration and renewal? What needs to be conserved for this site to heal itself? What features need to be reclaimed? What creatures need to be restored to their rightful home here so that their voice can be heard? Pray for this site, and the wisdom to care for it.

5. **Look toward your response. What can you do to ease demands or promote the rest of this ecological site?**

Based on your examination, how do you identify with this place? What have you discerned is required to care for this place? Whose voice from among this place will you seek to amplify? What will be your act of compassion to promote rest for this common home?

Appended Resource 3: Event Checklist

This checklist covers the steps to hold a successful event. In summary: plan well, gather wide support, make sure others are aware of the event, and follow-up after it's held.

Here is a detailed, step-by-step list to guide your celebration:

- Gather a group of one to four people to lead with you. This event committee will share the work, develop ideas, working with your pastor/priest and congregation to ensure that the Season of Creation has broad support in your church.
- Develop a general plan for your event. Refer to the event suggestions, and either choose the one that is right for you or develop another.
- Schedule a conversation between the pastor/priest, community leaders. To prepare everyone for the meeting, share the letter from faith leaders, information about the Season, and a link to the website in advance. All are available at SeasonOfCreation.org.
- In the meeting, start by thanking everyone for the good work they already do to protect creation. Say that you and your committee would like to volunteer for the church by leading a Season of Creation event. Get everyone's feedback, and write notes to record comments.
- Update your plan in response to the shared comments. Clear the event date, time, and location with your church administrator.
- Register your event at SeasonOfCreation.org. When you register, your celebration will become visible on the global Season of Creation map. We will also follow up with you by email to provide additional resources.
- Speak to additional leaders in the church as needed to get feedback and buy-in. The grounds committee, director of religious education, music and worship leader, and parish council might be involved, depending on your event.
- If your event is ecumenical or interfaith, contact the places of worship with which you hope to collaborate. Request a meeting and present your plan in a way that is similar to the method you used with your own pastor/priest.

- After the plan is finalized, make sure that members of your congregation and any collaborating places of worship are aware of it. The ideal time to start is one month before the event. This step is essential to ensuring good attendance and an engaging event. Use the template bulletin announcement, flyer, and social media post available at SeasonOfCreation.org.
- A few days before the event, gather all supplies. Contact any co-hosts to make sure they have everything they need. Do a final push for awareness in the church by asking your pastor/priest to make a pulpit announcement for setting up a table in a public space to pass out flyers after services.
- Host your event. Have fun!
- After the event, send a thank-you note to all leaders and volunteers. Let your congregation know about any outcomes or next steps from the event.
- Share photos of your event at SeasonOfCreation.org. These may be shared publicly, and will inspire and educate people around the world.
- Complete the event report form at SeasonOfCreation.org.

Appended Resource 4: Create a Burning Bush

Activities related to the Burning Bush:

- Organise an encounter to introduce this year's SOC theme and symbol. Briefly introduce and explain the theme and symbol, then dedicate a few minutes to open dialogue or small group discussions so people can share how they feel about the theme and symbol and what activities they would like to organise during the Season. You may use this presentation for example, inviting participants to simply contemplate the first few slides as a way to already practice listening to creation.
- Organise an activity where participants are invited to take off their shoes to acknowledge the sacred ground on which we stand, like Moses was invited to take off his shoes to approach the burning bush (Ex 3:5). This can be done outdoors for a moment of prayer or indoors.
- As you use the liturgical resources in the SOC Celebration Guide, you could also organise a moment of prayer to recall our ancestors of faith and those who defend our common home and the most vulnerable, just like Moses heard God recalling Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Ex 3:6-7). You may recall the indigenous people in your land, faith leaders, social workers and all those who work for socio environmental justice. Here are examples of eco-martyrs you can use. Here is a Taizé liturgical resource (English only) as an example of symbolic action inspired by the Exodus account.
- Invite your community or group to write on ribbons what their prayer intentions or commitments for SOC, then have them tie the ribbons on a tree or bush outside your church or community. See the following image for inspiration:

(Image source)

Crafts to create a burning bush:

- Bring a bush to the altar to keep the symbol present in all your Church or community celebrations. You may decorate the bush with red ribbons or paper to represent the fire.
- Create a luminary of the burning bush. You can use a jar, a paper bag, or any other recipient in which you can place a candle or lantern inside. Then decorate the outside surface of the recipient with a drawing of the bush or with paper, leaves, sticks, as you may like. See the following images for inspiration:

(Images source)

(Image source)

- Create a fake fire
- Invite the children of your parish or community to draw the burning bush and use that in your celebrations and activities. The drawing can be simple like this one . You can invite the kids to trace their hands and then decorate it to represent the fire, or use actual leaves and sticks glued to paper and use a flashlight behind it to represent the fire. See the following images for inspiration:

(Image source)

(Image source)