



*The Burning Bush*  
Ex 3:1-12

**Listen to the  
Voice of Creation**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

## **SEASON OF CREATION ECUMENICAL SERVICE**



## **Hymn No 325 Listen To The Spirit calling you**

### **Welcome**

#### **Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year.

This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator and with all creation, as we join together in prayer. We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home.

“Listen to the voice of creation” is the theme and invitation of this year’s Season of Creation. In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2022, Pope Francis calls on us to use the season to “cultivate our ecological conversion” and to pray together in “the great cathedral of Creation”.

The key messages in Pope Francis letter for this year are:

**We are called to protect creation—and we are missing the mark.** “Something good in the eyes of God has become something exploitable in human hands.”

**The Season of Creation is a time for prayer in nature.** “This is the time to re-acquaint ourselves with praying immersed in nature, where our gratitude to the creator God arises spontaneously.

**The Season of Creation is a time to grow in sustainability.** “This is the time to reflect on our lifestyles . . . Let’s change and adopt simpler and more respectful lifestyles!”

**The Season of Creation is a time to urge governments to enact better climate policies.** “This is the time to take prophetic actions” and governments have the task of “demonstrating political will to drastically hasten their measures to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible . . . in line with the Paris Agreement goals.”

### **Reading: Job 12:7-10**

But ask the beasts, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the heavens, and they will tell  
you;  
or the bushes of the earth, and they will  
teach you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of all mankind.

### **Psalm 19**

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.

**All: 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.

**All: 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.

**All: 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*)

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

### **Litany of lament and repentance**

We are going to light 3 candles to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women and biodiversity.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> candle**

##### **Reader 1**

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

**All: Hear our prayer**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> candle**

### **Reader 2**

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

**All: Hear our prayer**

**3<sup>rd</sup> candle**

**Reader 3**

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

**All: Hear our prayer  
Invitation to place pledges by the  
Burning Bush**

**Profession of Faith**

**All:**

**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)*

### **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,

**All: 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,

**All: 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,

**All: 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,

**All: 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,

**All: Help us be present too.**

**All: Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done**

**on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against  
us,**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

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

**All: 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.

**All: And also with you.**

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbour 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: Honouring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)*

**Let us offer each other a sign of peace.  
Please do not feel obliged to shake hands – a smile or a wave will suffice.**

## **Final Prayer**

**Hymn No 419 How Great Thou Art**