

# The Season of Creation

September

## Intentions

We pray that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation.

We pray that we may hear the cry of the earth and be inspired to respond.

We pray that Church be a beacon of hope reminding us of our responsibility to care for each other and our world.

For what else shall we pray ....

## Opening Prayer

Creator God,  
We have been blessed by the beauty of all that surrounds us.  
Help all people to appreciate the wonders of our world and through this, find ways to live differently so that the care of our common home, and the people who are suffering, become a priority.  
Amen.

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## We Listen

Genesis 1: 1-4, 9-12 (NRSVCE)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

## We Reflect

Our relationship with nature can heal and renew us in body, mind, and spirit. How often a walk along the beach, among the flowers in a garden, or out along the bush track, can help us find our inner peace again in times of severe stress and anxiety.

The 'Wild Things' can, in the words of poet Wendell Berry, help us to "rest in the grace of the world", whether the 'grace' is found in the wood drake of Kentucky, the Australian laughing kookaburra, or the scudding of the clouds against the blue sky.<sup>1</sup>



## We Respond

*Where in our natural world, do you experience moments of this 'grace'?*

*For what are you thankful for?*



## Closing Prayer

A Prayer for Our Earth

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 2015

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

Mary our Good Mother...*pray for us*  
St Marcellin Champagnat...*pray for us*  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop...*pray for us*  
And let us always remember...*to pray for one another*

