***PRAYER FOR* *LIFE***

**Introduction:**

Jesus came that we might have life and live it to the full. We come together today to better understand the issues surrounding all life. We come together to learn how to protect life from conception to natural death. We come together today to reflect on the sacredness of all creation which is a gift from God. Let us take a moment of silent prayer to ask the God of life to bless our gathering.

Pause for silent prayer.

**Leader:**

Creator and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.

**All:** Amen.

**Reading:** Calls to Action (From Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet)

‘Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends to the rest of creation” (Pope John Paul II) Pragmatically, humans will survive with other creatures on the planet or not at all….Not only human life but the whole living earth is God’s beloved creation deserving care. (Elizabeth Johnson)

Within our mission of unifying love, communion calls us to act in healthy and just ways within the Earth Community and Church, with Each Other and the Dear Neighbor.

**Intercessions:**

**Leader:**

In God, the author of all creation, we place our trust and hope as we pray:

That justice, truth, and a love for the gift of all life might inspire the work of

all legislators, governors, and our President, we pray to the Lord:

**R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For all who do not embrace the rights of the unborn that, in love, they may

come to know the dignity of every person in the eyes of God, we pray to

the Lord: **R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For all who touch the lives of the condemned, the old, and the forgotten,

that they might have compassion, respect, and appreciation for the dignity

of all human life, we pray to the Lord:

**R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

 **Leader:**

For the dying that through the love, care, and devotion of others they may

know the beauty of life in their dying moments, we pray to the Lord:

**R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

 **Leader:**

For the all the victims of the culture of death that like Lazarus, forgotten

and poor, they may be welcomed into God's eternal peace, we pray to the

Lord: **R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

For the cleansing of the areas of contamination and the elimination of plastic waste so that, the Earth and humans can heal.

**R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

**Leader:**

That we may take good care of creation – a gift freely given – cultivating and protecting it for future generations

**R:** Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Please add your intentions:

*A modern translation of the Our Father*

**All:** Creator of the universe,

holy and blessed be your name.

Acknowledging the web of life,

we embrace your presence in all things

Give us this day what we need

to embrace our brokenness,

enabling us to be reconcilers,

healing one another and the earth

**Let us pray together:**

Creator, we give thanks to you who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother’s womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life and of creation. Amen