



CREATING A NEW EARTH

Opening: Take time to become aware of your breathing. Breathe in the gift of air. Slowly breathe out any anxiety that you may have.

Prayer: from Sally Koch:

Oh, Wild and Wonderful Creator:
Who is continually creating this masterpiece called the universe.
Who overflows our lives with the beauty of creation.

Oh, Wild and Wonderful Creator:
Who brings us climate messengers to call us back to you.
Who is our life breath, without you everything would cease to be.

Surround our knowing with your generous love and when our thoughts go toward scarcity, help us know there is and will be enough. Guide us in letting go of consumerism and a throw-away culture.

Help us see how we use and discard the water and land upon which we live both individually and corporately so we are able to make sustainable and eco-friendly choices.

We ask this through our Source of Life. Amen

Leader: Close your eyes as you listen to Proverbs 8: 27-31. Imagine/envision the creativity of our Creator as you journey with the Cosmic Christ through creation.

Reader: From of old I was formed
at the first, before the earth
When the earth and the fields were not yet made,
nor the first clods of the world
Then the Creator made firm the skies above,
fixing fast the springs of the deep;
setting the sea its limit,
so that the waters would not transgress;
When the foundations of earth were made,
then was I beside the Creator as an artisan;
I was delighted day by day,
playing before the Creator all the while,
Playing over the whole of this earth,
having my delight with all creation.

Reflection: What word or image in this scripture touched you?

Pause

Listen to the reading a second time.

Sharing: share your reflection with one or two others

Imagine/envision the beauty and diversity of creation

Reader 1

At the very dawn of creation, the Creator breathed on the waters, making them holy. Native peoples believe that water is living and holds memories.

Imagine/envision the beauty and diversity of water. It is now clean and nurturing all of life. The waters are pure and clean supporting the many creatures of the deep. All toxic waste and plastic are now gone from the ocean. Shellfish and other invertebrates are multiplying in abundance. The environment is safe for seals and whales. Salmon, like their ancestors, are laying eggs in clean rivers.

Pause for reflection, imagining what can be

Reader 2

Cleared and burned rain forests are now replanted and regenerating. Destructive wildfires and trees killed by vermin are finding new life. Woods teeming with wildlife and species of birds now find a home. Oxygen is freely penetrating the earth's atmosphere with clean air. People are living in harmony with the forests.

Pause for reflection, imagining what can be

Reader 3

Toxic dumpsites are now gone and replaced with parks teeming with life and beauty. All discarded plastics and toxic electronics have been recycled into usable and productive items. Discarded garbage mulched to provide nourishment for plants and soil. We are caring for the soil and listening to the land, learning from her wisdom, using our gifts to care for creation.

Pause for reflection, imagining what can be

Reader 4

All creation is a blessing, and we have discovered our own place as part of the universe. We work with the Creator as compassionate co-creators and caretakers of the earth and of each other.

We produce and share what we need from natural resources given to us as gifts from the earth and its creatures. Living simply, showing our gratitude to the earth for the gifts given us, eating only what we need for our health.

Pause for reflection, imagining what can be

Share:

Commitment:

- Pray/sing songs of praise for creation each day
- Watch a sunrise/sunset giving praise
- Take time to walk/sit in a garden listening for the sounds of birds or insects
- Pray the prayer at the end of *Laudato Si'*
- Ask: "How did my decision/action heal the earth today?"

Let us pray together:

Almighty and 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.

A concluding prayer from Pope Francis