

September 29, 2024



THE SEASON OF CREATION

By Sr. Katherine “Kit” Gray

Introduction

Today is the 29th day of the Season of Creation, an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It takes place from Sept. 1 – the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – to Oct. 4 – the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. During this season we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. 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 well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

The theme for the 2024 Season of Creation is “to hope and act with Creation.” Amid the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer from eco-anxiety. As people of faith we are called to a life of hope inspired by faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action, but one embodied in concrete

actions of prayer and preaching, service, and solidarity.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and mother in his Canticum of the Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

And yet, there is hope and expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

[SEE SEASONOFCREATION.ORG](http://SEASONOFCREATION.ORG)

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION



Reflection

- Read the prayer (below) through once—linger on a word or phrase that resonates with and/or challenges you today.
 - Read the prayer again, reflecting on the questions offered.
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For Prayer

Season of Creation Prayer

*Triune God, Creator of all,
We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have
created,
making us a cosmic family living in a common home.
Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment,
home and protection.*

How do you experience the earth as “home” for you?

*We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from
you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused
the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity,
human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.*

**How do you experience the human responsibility for the climate
crisis, loss of biodiversity, and suffering of all creation?**

*We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth,
the groans of all creatures,
and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.*

**How do you experience the “groaning” of the earth and of the
Spirit?**

*May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the
redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of
the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may
hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her,
so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.*

What gives you hope in the face of the groans of all creation?

*Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these
groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the
redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and*

with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

What is your vision of an enhanced relationship with the earth and all creatures?

*In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news
to all Creation, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

- **Read the prayer again, uniting yourself with our Creator God and with all those worldwide who are seeking to hope and act with creation.**

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