



Announcing the 2021 Season of Creation and World Day of Prayer

"The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, ***to cultivate and care for it.***" Genesis 2:15

Our new Family of Parishes is excited to celebrate the Season of Creation together this year. The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home. It starts on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This Day of Prayer was established by Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox church in 1989, and was then embraced by major European churches in 2001 and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. The Season ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. This year the theme is "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God." 'Oikos' is the Greek word for 'home'. You can find out more about the Season of Creation at seasonofcreation.org. In the weeks ahead, look for bulletin articles and listen for a Prayer of the Faithful related to the Season of Creation. Think about what you personally can do to celebrate the Season.

2021 Season of Creation Prayer

Let us pray and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and protect the vulnerable.

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house "even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young." We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth's capacity to heal herself. Therefore, in this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*From: Season of Creation, 2021 Celebration Guide A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God
Season of Creation.org*