

## Listen to the Voice of Creation



Listen to the  
Voice of Creation  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

From 1 September to 4 October, Christians worldwide unite through Christ in prayer and action to protect our common home. This is our opportunity to care for creation and all beings who share it, to listen to the voices of those who are silenced and lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems that are lost. In prayer and action we listen and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of those who are poor.

The Season of Creation is a global celebration that began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the day of prayer for Creation. This is a summary of the Season of Creation's *Listen to the Voice of Creation* celebration guide. To find the whole guide go to "[Season of Creation](#)".

"[Creation] is the divine page that you must listen to; it is the book of the universe that you must observe. The pages of Scripture can only be read by those who know how to read and write, while everyone, even the illiterate, can read the book of the universe."

- St. Augustine

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## Listen to the Voice of Creation

### Psalm 19: 1-4

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night  
declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and  
their words to the end of the world.

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The Psalmist who declares that creation proclaims God's handiwork also knows that the book of Scripture perfectly revives the soul, makes the simple wise, rejoices the heart, and enlightens the eyes. (Psalm 19:7-8) The book of creation and the book of Scripture are meant to be "read" side by side.

For Christians, Jesus Christ holds the two "books" of creation and Scripture together. Faced with the reality of brokenness, suffering and death, Christ's incarnation and resurrection becomes the hope for reconciling and healing the Earth. The book of Scripture proclaims God's Word so that we can go into the world and read the book of creation in a way that anticipates this Gospel. In turn, the book of creation helps us to hear the book of Scripture from the perspective of all creation that waits with eager longing for the good news. Christ becomes a key to discern God's gifts and promise for all creation, and particularly those who suffer or are already lost to us.

( [Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022](#), p. 7 & 8)

## Ideas to Celebrate the Season of Creation

### Advocacy:

- Amplifying marginalized voices
  - Women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, youth, the economically marginalized and people suffering from systemic racism and all forms of discrimination
  - Many of these populations have contributed the least to the climate crisis, yet suffer most from climate injustice
  - They have not been heeded in global action
  - Advocacy based on evidence is meant to influence powerful decision-makers to address the root causes of injustice – evidence includes what those most affected have to say
  - Lifting up the voices of the marginalized, not speaking on their behalf

### Ecumenical Commitments to care for our common home:

- Commit to:
  - Hear and amplify voices and solutions of those most affected by the loss of biodiversity and the climate crisis
  - Locally led ecosystem preservation and restoration must be acknowledged at global events
  - Protecting people, the planet and all of nature, including natural ecosystems, is a priority over profit
  - Ensure that human rights, social justice and the integrity of creation are at the centre of the response to the current climate and biodiversity crisis

### Actions:

- Change your behaviour
  - Calculate your carbon footprint using an online calculator like this [one](#)
  - Recognize the need for marginalized communities and their knowledge in reducing climate change impacts
  - Learn about Climate-Responsible Finance and support divestment from fossil fuels
  - Engage a small group of people in your community to join you in the group to pray, reflect, and support one another
  - Find out what your country is doing regarding its climate pledges
  - Consider endorsing fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty

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### Advocacy: your government

In the lead up to COP27, (7 – 18 November) in Egypt, you can advocate for necessary funds for marginalized communities to help them implement the many solutions that will work in their circumstances. Particularly important this year is securing adequate financing for communities to adapt to the loss and damage done to land, livelihoods, cultures, species and peoples by the effects of climate change, and ensuring that the needs of marginalized women are at the centre of all climate plans.

## Season of Creation and the Liturgical Year

<p><b>1 September</b> <i>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</i></p>	<p>In 2015, Pope Francis declared 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development invites us all to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gather in our parishes for prayer; and,</li> <li>2. Take practical actions to combat earths environmental crisis. (cf. <i>Ordo</i>, p. 344)</li> </ol>	
<p><b>4 September</b> <i>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p>Wisdom 9.13-18 Psalm 90 Philemon 9b-10, 12-17 Luke 14.25-33</p>	<p>The readings invite us to discern God’s will in all things and to examine our relationships to each other, as disciples of Jesus. We are invited to note how God has been our dwelling place in all generations.</p>
<p><b>11 September</b> <i>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p>Exodus 32.7-11, 13-14 Psalm 51 Timothy 1: 12-17 Luke 15: 1-32 (or shorter)</p>	<p>Christ Jesus came into the world to save us and there will be much joy in heaven over one repentant sinner. Let’s work towards healing our relationships with God by loving others caring for all of creation.</p>
<p><b>18 September</b> <i>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p>Amos 8.4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Luke 16: 1-13 (or shorter)</p>	<p>Who do we serve, God or wealth? What are our attitudes towards those who are poor? Do we treat others as our sister/bother or as a commodity? No one can be saved alone; one cannot buy one’s salvation.</p>
<p><b>25 September</b> <i>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p>Amos 6.1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6: 6, 11-19 Luke 16: 19-31</p>	<p>Keeping the commandments calls us to consider the needs of others and the common good. By serving those in need, we encounter Christ, we serve Christ and together we journey with Christ.</p>
<p><b>25 September</b> <i>World Day of Migrants and Refugees</i> (<a href="#">Pope Francis’ Message</a>)</p>	<p>There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever ... Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded (Pope Francis, <i>Laudato Si’</i>, #25).</p>	
<p><b>30 September</b> <i>National Truth &amp; Reconciliation Day</i></p>	<p>Walking together was the theme of Pope Francis’ visit to Canada. This <i>pilgrimage of penance</i>, reminded us of the need for ongoing healing and reconciliation. This is particularly important to Catholics in Canada given the Church’s involvement in operating nearly half of the country’s residential schools. It is also important to recognize the suffering and intergenerational trauma that remains for many survivors to this day.</p>	
<p><b>2 October</b> <i>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p>Habakkuk 1.2-3; 2.2-4 Psalm 95 2 Timothy: 1, 6-8,13-14 Luke 17: 5-10</p>	<p>Being open to and listening to the voice of the Lord, let us live lives of faith. May we live honourably, in right relationships, and may our lives be a testimony of our faith in the Lord.</p>
<p><b>4 October</b> <i>Feast: St. Francis of Assisi</i></p>	<p>In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change (Pope Francis, <i>Laudato Si’</i>, #218).</p>	

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## Global Calendar of Events



**1 September: Online Prayer Service for Creation Day/World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**



**17 September: International Coastal Cleanup Day**



**25 September: 108<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees – “Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees”**



**4 October: St. Francis Day**



**7-18 November: United Nations’ annual climate change conference COP 27, in Egypt**



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