



PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Prayers based on paragraphs of Pope Francis' encyclical
"On Care for Our Common Home" *Laudato Si*, 2015

BOOKLET SERIES: QUOTES & PRAYERS BASED ON POPE FRANCIS' WRITINGS
BOOK 3, EDITION 2



*“Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of
weather
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong”. Amen.*

Words of Saint Francis of Assisi in Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,”
Laudato Si, paragraph 87

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FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Book 3. Edition 2

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Prayers based on paragraphs of Pope Francis' encyclical
"On Care for Our Common Home" Laudato Si (2015).

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THE GOSPEL OF CREATION



Our Common Home

O God of Love and Life,

by your word,
the heavens were made” (Ps 33:6).
The world came about as the result of your decision,
not from chaos or chance.

Every creature is the object of the your tenderness,
and you give each its place in the world.
Even the fleeting life of the least of beings
is the object of your love;
in its few seconds of existence,
you enfold it with your affection.

May we, who are also your beloved creatures,
share your love and care for all that you have made. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 77

Jesus, Son of Joseph the Worker,

we were created with a vocation to work.
Work is a necessity,
part of the meaning of life on this earth,
a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment.

May we help the poor financially,
but may we always understand this is a provisional solution
in the face of pressing needs.
May our broader objective always be
to allow them a dignified life through work.

May businesses focus on people and invest in them, rather than on
short-term financial gain, which is bad business for society. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 128

The Gospel of Creation

Spirit of Life,

you dwell in every living creature
and you are always calling us into relationship with you.
May we find you wherever we seek you. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 88

God of Boundless Love,

you have written a precious book,
"whose letters are the multitude
of created things present in the universe."
The entire material universe speaks of your love,
your boundless affection for us.

Soil, water, mountains:
everything is your caress.
Even our friendship with you has a history linked to particular places,
which take on an intensely personal meaning.

We remember places,
whether we have grown up in the hills,
sat by the spring to drink,
or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square.
We go back to these places for a chance
to recover something of our true selves.

May we contemplate creation in every place,
hear its message,
and listen to its paradoxical and silent voice.

May we sense each creature
singing the hymn of its existence
and live joyfully in God's love and hope.

May we discover, in each part of creation,
the teaching which you wish to hand on to us. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 84,85

Jesus Christ, Friend and Brother,

we know that a world view which sees nature
solely as a source of profit and gain,
has serious consequences for society.

The idea of “might is right”

has caused immense inequality,

injustice and acts of violence

against the majority of humanity.

Resources end up in the hands of the first comer

or the most powerful: the winner takes all.

Form in us the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace.

Strengthen us to bring your ideals to this world, so badly in need. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis’, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 82

Jesus Christ, Risen One,

those who follow you

know that the destiny of all creation

is bound up with the mystery of you:

You were present from the beginning, Divine Word,

and all things were created through you (Col 1:16; Jn 1:14).

You are the Person of the Trinity

who entered into the created cosmos,

throwing in your lot with it, even to the cross.

From the beginning of the world,

and through the incarnation,

the mystery of you, Risen Christ,

is at work in a hidden manner in the whole natural world.

May we never forget the mystery that

you are at work in the midst of all creation.

Help us to care for creation with reverence. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis’, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 99

The Gospel of Creation

Jesus, Calmer of Rough Seas, Worker of Nazareth,

you lived in full harmony with creation,
and others were amazed:

“What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

(Mt 8:27).

You were not set apart from the world.

You were not an enemy to the pleasant things of life.

You worked with your hands,

in daily contact with the matter of creation,

to which you gave form by your craftsmanship.

Most of your life was dedicated to this task

and people asked, “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mk 6:3).

In this way you sanctified human labour and

gave it special significance for our development.

Bless our labours and the work of our hands.

Help us through the difficulties and challenges of our work.

Spur us on to reach out to those without work, with practical help and support,
and to stand up for those who are not paid fair wages for fair work.

We pray earnestly that we may help create a world that is fairer and more just,
where the dignity of fair work may be available to everyone who seeks it. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 98

Jesus Who Looks With Love,

you invited us to really see the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

You looked at the restless, rich young man “with love” (Mk 10:21).

You were completely present to everyone and to everything.

Form in us an attitude of heart

which approaches life with serene attentiveness,

capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next,
accepting each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 226

Our Common Home

Jesus Christ,

with moving tenderness you reminded your disciples
that each one person and each creature is important in God's eyes:

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?

And not one of them is forgotten before God” (Lk 12:6).

“Look at the birds of the air:

they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,

and yet your heavenly Father feeds them” (Mt 6:26).

Throughout our lives, may we remember your words,
and see every person and every part of creation,
with your eyes, and love with your heart. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 96

Jesus,

you walked the land you loved,

and invited others to be attentive to beauty in this world.

You were in constant touch with nature,

paying attention, with fondness and wonder.

You often stopped to gaze at the beauty sown by your Father.

Invite us, as you invited your disciples, to discover a divine message in what we
see:

“Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest” (Jn 4:35).

“The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and
sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but once it has grown, it is the
greatest of plants” (Mt 13:31-32).

Dear Friend,

when I spend time with you

in the bush, a garden, beneath a night sky, watching sunrise or sunset,

may I follow your gaze, thankful for the beauty and wonder

of the creation that surrounds me. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 97

The Gospel of Creation

Risen Christ, Lord and Friend,

the ultimate purpose of other creatures
is not found in us.

All creatures are moving forward,
with us, and through us,
towards a common point of arrival,
where you, Risen Christ,
embrace and illumine all things.

May we human beings,
endowed with intelligence and love,
allow ourselves to be drawn by you,
and may we lead all creatures back to their Creator. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 83

Creator God, Father,

you are the ultimate source of everything,
the loving and self-communicating foundation of all that exists.

Jesus, Son of Mary,

you are the reflection of the Father.
Through you all things were created.
You united yourself to this earth.

Spirit of Life and Love,

you are intimately present at the very heart of the universe,
inspiring and guiding us on new pathways.

Loving God, three Persons,

the world was created by you.
We celebrate the wonder and beauty of the universe and praise you,
Trinity, God. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 238

Our Common Home

God, Father, Son and Spirit,

we Christians, believe you are One; a Trinity of loving Persons:
You have left your mark on all creation. Your reflection is there in nature.
The world is a web of relationships, created according to your divine model.
Creatures tend towards you, O God,
and every living being tends towards other things.
Throughout the universe,
we find countless constant and interwoven relationships.

This all leads us to discover a key to our own fulfilment:
We human persons grow, mature and are sanctified
to the extent that we enter into relationships, going out from ourselves,
living in communion with God, with others and with all creatures.
Everything is interconnected.
May we develop a spirituality of global solidarity
flowing from the mystery that is you, O God, Trinity. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 239-240

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED



Loving God of Creation,

you saw everything that you had made,
“and behold it was very good” (Gen 1:31).

Every man and woman is created out of love,
made in your image and likeness (Gen 1:26).

The biblical stories of your creation
suggest that human life is grounded
in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships:
with you, our God,
with our neighbour
and with the earth itself.

These three vital relationships have been broken,
both outwardly and within us, and this is sin.

Loving God of Creation,
have mercy on us and help us.

God of Harmony,

the harmony between you, our Creator, humanity and creation as a whole
is disrupted when we presume to take your place, O God,
and refuse to acknowledge our creaturely limitations.

Loving God of Creation,
have mercy on us and help us.

God Who Calls Us Forward,

we have distorted our mandate
to “have dominion” over the earth (cf. Gen 1:28),
to “till it and keep it” (Gen 2:15).

Loving God of Creation,
have mercy on us and help us.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraphs 65-66

Everything Is Connected

God of Hearts and Lives,

when our hearts are open
our sense of fraternity
excludes nothing and no one.

Indifference or cruelty
towards fellow creatures of this world
sooner or later affects
the way we treat other human beings,
for we have only one heart.
Never allow our hearts to forget
that peace, justice and the preservation of creation
are absolutely interconnected, and everything is related. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraphs 92

Creator God,

for human beings
to destroy the biological diversity of your creation;
to degrade the integrity of the earth, causing changes in its climate,
to strip the earth of its natural forests or destroy its wetlands;
to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life
– these are sins.

Help us, fragile human beings,
to replace consumption with sacrifice,
greed with generosity,
wastefulness with a spirit of sharing.

Teach us the way of loving, O loving God,
of moving away from what I want to what your world needs.
Liberate us from fear, greed and compulsion. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraphs 8-9
also quoting Patriarch Bartholomew,

Our Common Home

God of Community and Community Builders,

help us to ensure that local populations
have a special place at the table in planning that impacts them,
for they are concerned about their own future and that of their children,
and they consider goals beyond immediate economic interest. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 183

God of Wisdom,

may we respect the laws of nature and protect
the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world.

May we recognise that other living beings have their own value in your eyes,
each in its own way reflecting a ray of your infinite wisdom and goodness.

May we respect creation and its laws, remembering always
that it is you, O God, who by your wisdom founded the earth (Prov 3:19). Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraphs 67 and Catechism 68

THE COMMON GOOD, JUSTICE AND THE FUTURE



God of Life and Peace,

as never before in history,
our common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning.
Let ours be a time of

awakening of a new reverence for life,
the firm resolve to achieve sustainability,
the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and
the joyful celebration of life. Amen.

Based on The Earth Charter and Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 207

God of Goodness,

in our global society, injustices abound
and growing numbers of people
are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable.

In these conditions,
the principle of the common good
becomes a summons to solidarity
and a preferential option
for the poorest of our brothers and sisters.

May we recognise that the world's goods
are meant to be universally shared.
May we never lose sight of the immense dignity of the poor.
May we recognise the responsibilities and commitments
that must flow from our deepest convictions as believers. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 158

God of Boundless Generosity,

may we recognise all people and all creatures for their true worth.
May we set limits on ourselves so that our surroundings will not deteriorate,
and the sufferings of others will not increase. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 208

— *The Common Good, Justice and the Future* —

God of Compassion and Mercy,

we should be particularly indignant
at the enormous inequalities in our midst,
whereby we continue to tolerate
some considering themselves more worthy than others.

We fail to see that some are mired
in desperate and degrading poverty,
with no way out,
while others with many possessions
leave behind them so much waste which,
if it were the case everywhere,
would destroy the planet.

Do not allow us to continue to tolerate
that some consider themselves
more worthy than others,
as if they had been born with greater rights.
Do not allow us to fall into such attitudes.
Let us be indignant, as you are indignant,
at the inequalities in our midst. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 90

God of Tenderness,

a sense of deep communion with the rest of nature
cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness,
compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.
Everything is connected.

May our concern for the environment
be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings
and an unwavering commitment
to resolving the problems of society. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 91

God of Justice,

may we reject self-centredness and self-absorption,
so that we may truly care for our brothers and sisters
and for the natural environment.

May we recognise we have a moral responsibility
to assess the impact of our every action
and personal decision has on the world around us.

May we overcome selfishness.
Help us to develop a different lifestyle
and bring about significant changes in society. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 208

God of all People,

Those who believe in you, and those who do not,
agree that the earth is a shared inheritance,
whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.
For us this becomes a question of fidelity to you, our Creator,
since you created the world for everyone.

May every ecological approach, every effort to care for our precious earth,
take into account the fundamental rights
of the poor and the underprivileged. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 93

God of Heaven and Earth,

Saint John Paul II reminded us
that you gave the earth to the whole human race
for the sustenance of all its members.

May we work to restore your plan for creation:
to ensure this gift is not used in such a way
that its benefits favour only a few. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 93

— *The Common Good, Justice and the Future* —

God of All Good Gifts,

when we think about the kind of world
we are leaving to future generations,
may we look at things differently:
May we realise the world is a gift
which we have freely received
and must share with others.
Challenge us to realise we can no longer use it
as if everything is geared to our individual benefit.

Remind us that care for future generations
is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice,
since the world we have received
also belongs to those who will follow us.
The environment is on loan to us,
and we must hand it on to the next. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 159

God of Fidelity and Trust,

you have entrusted this fragile world to human care
and we have learned that unlimited material progress is impossible.

Help us to devise intelligent ways
of directing, developing and limiting our power.

Help us to exercise our freedom and responsibility
to protect and develop this world's potential. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 78

God of Courage,

do not let us be discouraged.
Benefits brought by our efforts to change the world may be unknown to us.
Our efforts to do good call forth more goodness which can spread, unseen.
Give us courage to continue trying to make a difference. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 212

God of Inspiration,

you can bring good out of the evil we have done.
You can use the circumstances we find difficult,
to draw us into cooperation with you, our Creator God.

Your Spirit fills the universe with possibilities so that,
from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge.
May we be open to the new possibilities your Spirit brings. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 80

God of Truth,

help us to redefine our notions of progress;
because technological and economic development
which do not leave in their wake a better world,
and an integrally higher quality of life,
cannot be considered progress. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 194

God of Crisis and Opportunity,

may our awareness of the gravity of today's cultural
and ecological crises be translated into new habits. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 209

God of the Journey,

may those planning new ventures ask:
How will this contribute to genuine integral development?
What will it accomplish?
Why? Where? When? How? For whom?
What are the risks? What are the costs?
Who will pay those costs and how?
Guide all planners in finding wise answers to all these questions. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 185

— *The Common Good, Justice and the Future* —

God of the Future,

when we ask what kind of world
we want to leave behind
for children who are now growing up,
help us to think of its general direction,
its meaning and its values.
Help us to struggle with these deeper issues,
facing them courageously,
so that our concern for ecology will produce significant results.

May we ask and pray about these important questions:
What is the purpose of our life in this world?
Why are we here?
What is the goal of our work and all our efforts?
What need does the earth have of us?

God of Hope, help us to hand on
an inhabitable planet to future generations,
as it is up to us,
and these issues and questions are linked
with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 160

FAMILIES



God of Love,

bless families
where we learn
how to show love and respect for life,
the proper use of things,
order and cleanliness,
respect for the local ecosystem
and care for all creatures.

Bless the family
where we learn to ask without demanding,
to say “thank you” to express gratitude for what we have been given,
to control our aggression and greed,
and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm.

Bless the family,
where simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy
help to create a culture of shared life
and respect for our surroundings. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 213

God of All That is Good, Faithful and True,

remind us that we need one another,
and that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world,
and that being good and decent are worth it. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 229

God of Tender Care,

love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care,
makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.
May we never lose sight
of the importance of little everyday gestures. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 231

God of Light,

help us provide education
in responsible simplicity of life,
in grateful contemplation of your world,
and in concern for the needs of the poor
and the protection of the environment.
Strengthen in us the personal qualities
of self-control and willingness to learn from one another. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 214

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Generous God,

we depend on you for life.
We thank you for this food and for all your gifts of creation.
We ask you to bless this food.
Bless all those who by their labours
have provided us with these good things to share.
May we always live in solidarity with those in greatest need,
and do whatever we can to help them. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 227

LIVING EACH DAY



God of History,

may we grow in an ecological spirituality
grounded in the convictions of our Christian faith,
for the teachings of the Gospel
have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living.

May such a spirituality motivate us
to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world.
May we grow in a spirituality that inspires, encourages, motivates, nourishes
and gives meaning to our individual and communal activities. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 216

God of Mountains, Deserts and Oceans,

external deserts in the world are growing,
because the internal deserts have become so vast.

Call us to profound interior conversion, an "ecological conversion",
so that the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ
become evident in our relationships with the world around us. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 217

God Who Calls,

may we fully live our vocation to be protectors of your handiwork,
for this is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience;
it is essential to a life of virtue. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 217

God of All,

the universe unfolds in you and you fill it completely.
There is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf,
in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.
May we discover you within the depths of our souls and in all things. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 223

Living Each Day

God of Beauty,

you created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that we human beings have no right to ignore.

May the power and the light of your grace be evident in our relationship with other creatures and the world around us. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis', "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 221

God of Silence and Stillness,

nature is filled with words of your love, but how can we listen amid constant noise, distractions, or the worry about appearances?

Save us from the profound imbalance which drives us to frenetic activity and makes us feel busy and in a constant hurry, which can lead us to ride rough-shod over everything around us and affects the way we treat the environment.

Help us to find an integral ecology, to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflected in our lifestyle and ideals. May we learn to contemplate you, our Creator, always with us, among us and surrounding us. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis', "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 225

Beloved God,

standing awestruck before a mountain, I am in awe and I find you there. May I never lose my sense of wonder and awe at your presence, in the beauty of all you have created. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis', "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 234

God of Rest and Re-Creation,

on the seventh day, you rested from all your work.
You commanded Israel to set aside each seventh day
as a day of rest, a Sabbath (cf. Gen 2:2-3; Ex 16:23; 20:10).

May we rediscover Sabbath rest in our lives,
to ensure balance and fairness
in relationships with others and with the land on which we live and work.

May we acknowledge that the gift of the earth
with all its fruits belongs to everyone.
Remind us that we are obliged to share earth's gifts, especially with the poor,
the most vulnerable and foreigners in our midst. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 71

God of the Sabbath,

our Sunday participation in the Eucharist has special importance:
It is a day for healing relationships
with you, with ourselves, with others and with the world.
It is the day of the Resurrection, "first day" of the new creation,
a time for relaxation and festivity, receptivity and thankfulness.
Sunday looks forward to our eternal rest in you, O God.

May the Sabbath time we experience,
ensure that our human actions are not empty activism.
May this rest open our eyes to the larger picture
and give us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others.
May our day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, shed light on the whole week,
and motivate us to greater concern for nature and the poor. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 237

Everyday God,

the Sacraments are a privileged way
in which nature is taken up by you
to become a means of mediating supernatural life.

In our worship, invite us to embrace the world on a different plane,
to notice water, oil, fire and colours
taken up in all their symbolic power, in our act of praise.
Help us to see beauty everywhere:
in the shape of a church, in sounds, colours, lights, and scents.
Remind us that our human bodies in their inner nature
are temples of your Holy Spirit, united with the Lord Jesus who took
a human body.

Enable us to see in the hand that blesses — an instrument of your love;
in water poured over the body of a child in Baptism - a sign of new life.
When we celebrate the Sacraments, may we be deeply present
to the mystery of your presence and love, expressed in tangible forms
that we can see, hear, touch or taste.
May we know your Son, Jesus Christ, is close to us
as he accompanies us on life's journey. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis' "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 235

JOY AND PEACE

God of Joy and Peace,

a constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle our hearts and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. Let us take up the ancient lesson that “less is more.”

Show us the way to be serenely present to each reality, however small. Open us to much greater horizon of understanding and personal fulfilment.

May we grow in a Christian spirituality marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. May we rediscover the simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate small things; to be grateful for the opportunities life gives us; and to be spiritually detached from what we possess. May we not give in to sadness for what we lack. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 222

God of Peace,

may we cultivate a balanced life, at peace with ourselves. May we grow in our capacity for wonder. May we find a deeper understanding of life. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 225

AT THE END



Mary, Queen of Creation,

Mother who cared for Jesus,
you care for this wounded world
with maternal affection.

You treasured the life of Jesus in your heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51).

Now, you understand the meaning of all things.

Enable us to look at this world
with eyes of wisdom. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 241

God of Hope,

help us to take charge of this home
which has been entrusted to us,
knowing that all the good which exists here on earth,
will be taken up into the heavenly feast.

We are on a journey with all creatures and we are seeking you, O God.

Let us sing as we go.

May our struggles and our concern for this planet
never take away the joy of our hope. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 244

God of Light,

give us light and strength to continue on our way.

You love us so much, and you are always present, in the heart of this world.

Do not abandon us.

Do not leave us alone.

May your love constantly impel us to find new ways forward.

Praise be to you! Amen.

Based on Pope Francis, "On Care for Our Common Home," *Laudato Si*, paragraph 245

God of Eternity,

even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity,
towards our common home in heaven.

At the end,

we will find ourselves face to face with your infinite beauty, O God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12).
We will be able to read the mystery of the universe, with admiration and
happiness.

We will share in unending plenitude.

Eternal life with you will be a shared experience of awe,
in which each creature, wonderfully transfigured, will take its rightful place.

Men and women will be liberated once and for all.

Jesus says: “I make all things new” (Rev 21:5).

May we never lose hope in the future of your promises. Amen.

Based on Pope Francis’ “On Care for Our Common Home,” *Laudato Si*, paragraph 243

A Prayer for Our Earth

(Laudato Si)

*All-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.*

O God of the poor,

*help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.*

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it;

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing;

to be filled with awe and contemplation;

to recognise that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace.

A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation

(Laudato Si)

*Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!*

*Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother;
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!*

*Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!*

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.*

*God of love, show us our place in this world,
as channels of your love*

Our Common Home

*for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference;
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.*

*The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light;
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!*

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