

Parent prayer - Earth Day.



As we reflect this Earth Day , we remember and acknowledge the First Nations Peoples who have walked upon and cared for these lands, seas and waterways for many thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations Peoples to this place and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation. We pray and give thanks for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the lands, seas and waterways and now work with all Australians to ensure the generations to come have a sustainable future.

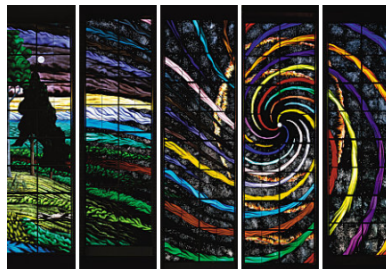
Context of Earth Day

Earth Day began in the United States in 1970. Perhaps unexpectedly it achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders. As 1990 Earth Day went global, mobilising 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In 2021 the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day digital conferences and summits are being held as we continue to push the need for care for our Earth. (Information from <https://www.earthday.org/history/>).

Scripture

A reading from the Book of Job (12:7-10)

*"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, [a] and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.*



The Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Reflection - From Elizabeth A Johnson: from 'Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril' p.225)

The signs of our time propel the living tradition forward. The biosphere of our blue marble of a planet is under severe duress. The atmosphere is heating up. Populations of song birds, pollinators and amphibians, mammals from bats to moose, and many aquatic species are plummeting. Every year multiple species go extinct at an alarming rate due to human actions. This raises a new question about the will of God for the world, or more explicitly, about the merciful intent of God for all creatures and their ecosystems. Since salvation means making life whole, liberating, healing, forgiving, restoring, cleansing, opening up new possibilities, belief in a God who saves is obviously relevant to the polluted, ravaged, depleted natural world. A theology of accompaniment sees God's redeeming action always present and active in service of the flourishing of a world that is currently suffering reversals and death in a horrific way. The living God, gracious and merciful, always was, is and will be accompanying the world with saving grace, including humans in their sinfulness, and humans and all creatures in their unique beauty, evolutionary struggle and inevitable dying...In Jesus Christ crucified we are gifted with an historical sacrament of encounter with the mercy of God, which impels us toward conversion to the suffering earth, sustained by hope for the resurrection of us all.

Prayer: A prayer for Earth Day by the Sisters of Mercy

<https://www.sistersofmercy.org/resources/prayer-earth-day/>

As we are called to see ourselves and each other as earthen vessels that hold God's presence and bring God's gifts to the world, so too, this very world and all that is above, around and within it are earthen vessels - just as easily shattered, just as much in need of our loving attentiveness and support. May our hands align with God's in caressing and shaping these vessels.

For trees, plants, crops, and forests. Let us pray.

For water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds. Let us pray.

For air, wind, climate and weather. Let us pray.

For sun, clean energy and prevention of global warming. Let us pray.

For animals, especially endangered species. Let us pray.

For all humankind. Let us pray.

For recycling and moderate personal consumption. Let us pray.

For proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Let us pray.

For Earth and unity. Let us pray.

Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.

Peace be to this community. Peace be to this land. Peace be to all people. Amen.

This prayer was adapted for Earth Day 2013 by the Catholic Health Association from a novena developed by the Mercy Justice Circle in New Jersey.

Call to Action

As a family, look at the [Earth Day Website](#). Explore with your family and find out which part of this site speaks to you as a family. It may be sustainable farming, or Climate Literacy. You may wish to view one of the recorded summits or speakers.



Audit and celebrate what you already do to care for creation; recycling, clothes donation, Clean up Australia day etc.

Take a nature walk (if it stops raining!) to really look at the beauty of nature right in our own area. Say a prayer of thanks for this as a family.