

Seasons of Creation 2022

Preparation for Prayer

I become still and breathe in the breath of life. I become aware of the sounds, smells, sensations that fill the air around me. I listen to my breath, moving through me, sustaining me, gifting me with life.

Acknowledgement of Country

During this Season of Creation, we acknowledge the Lands, Seas, Skies and Waterways which make up the Cairns Catholic Education Community.

The Kaurareg and Zenadth Kessians of the Torres Strait.

The Guugu Yimithirr and Kuku Yalangi, the Bulway and Djabugay to the North.

The Dulabed Malanbarra Yidinji, Wamyurr Majay and Mamu, the Jirribal and Gulngay to the South.

The Algnith, Tableland Yidinji and Muluridji, the Djungan and MBar-Barrum to the West.

The Yirrigangi and Gunggandji to the East.

And the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, on whose Country I write this prayer on today.

We acknowledge the elders of these countries past and present. We acknowledge that these lands, seas, skies and waterways were, are and always will be those of the First Nations peoples of these places. In solidarity with the Uluru Statement from the Heart, you are invited to being a person who listens deeply and works for truth-telling, healing and reconciliation during this Season of Creation and in all the days that follow.

Context

The Season of Creation is celebrated annually from 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation. The Season of Creation is an ecumenical (coming together of all Christian Traditions) time of prayer, celebration and action for our common home.

Scripture

Luke 15:1-10 (2nd week of Season of Creation)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



Figure 1 [Lost Coin: Colored Bible illustration](#) from *The Life and Lessons of Our Lord*, p. 270, by John Cumming, 1864.

Reflection: Rachel McLean Leader Formation, Cairns Catholic Education Services

The reading from this year's second Sunday in the Season of Creation (11 September) holds 3 parables: the lost sheep; the lost drachma; and the forgiving father. This prayer focuses on the first two parables and how Jesus begins them with a question that quite possibly results in a rather simple answer – not me! For who would leave 99 sheep, alone and defenseless, to search for a lost one; who would turn a house upside down to find one lone coin? Both of these over-the-top examples of searching and rejoicing when that which was lost is found, potentially have much to teach us in this Season of Creation. Perhaps the lost sheep/drachma are those whose land, ways of living and traditions are being lost to rising sea levels, deforestation and pollution. Perhaps, the shepherds/woman are those with resources who leave their everyday ways to find new ways of being, caring or including. Perhaps, like Jesus is suggesting in the second parable, we are being asked to find heaven on earth ("rejoicing among the angels of God") and let go of that which we thought we needed and focus on that which has been lost.

I am finding more and more solace in letting go of material things and leaning into the opportunities to immerse myself into nature and relationships. Seasons of Creation is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the broader

Christian community and explore how we can be better stewards of common home, especially one like ours which has 2 world heritage sites (The Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest).

In the resources below is a [Seasons of Creation Bingo](#) from Catholic Earthcare. I love that this 'to do list' for families provides an opportunity to reflect on what families are currently doing (and celebrate this with a star) and challenge families to consider what more they could be doing to reduce carbon footprints and be advocates for ecology. We are told that it can take anywhere from 18 to 254 days to change a habit. Seasons of Creation is the perfect platform to test the theory and see if we can change our habits so that we can better care for our Common Home over a period of 34 days.

Prayer: Seasons of Creation 2022 Prayer (accessed from [2022 Seasons of Creation Resources](#))

Creator of All, From your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationships with each creature so that we could listen to their voices, and learn how to safeguard the conditions for life. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures.

We close our ears to the counsel of our fellow creatures. We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth. We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures. We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats that will never speak again. We grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished. Creation cries out as forests crackle, and animals alike flee the fires of injustice that we have lit by our unwillingness to listen. In this Season of Creation, we pray that you would call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Breathe upon us. Open our ears and move our hearts. Turn us from our inward gaze. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory. For "faith comes from hearing."

Give us hearts to listen for the good news of your promise to renew the face of the Earth. Enlighten us with the grace to follow the Way of Christ as we learn to walk lightly upon this holy ground. Fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

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

Action

Over the next few weeks, join other Christian communities and world traditions to pray and reflect on how we can better care for creation. Here are some articles, reflections, activities and prayers that you might find useful:

- [Seasons of Creation](#)
 - o This is a comprehensive resource of prayers and activities for the season that you might like to explore with your family including an Examen (pp37-38)
- [Laudato Si Action Platform](#)
 - o Join the [Laudato Si Action Platform](#): a space for institutions, communities, and **families** to learn and grow together as we journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology.
- [Caritas Australia](#)
 - o [Integral Ecology Reflection](#): A guided reflection highlighting the interconnectedness of all creation.
 - o [Additional resources](#) on Care for Creation
- [CAFOD](#)
 - o [Care of Creation Rosary](#)
 - o [Novena to St Francis](#)
- [Catholic Earthcare Convocation](#)
 - o [Laudato Si Mantra](#) – share with your family through prayer, text, photos, reflection
 - o Play [Seasons of Creation Bingo](#) with your family (ways to change your habits!)



Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Figure 2 Accessed from p11 of [2022 Resources](#), create your own using ideas from pp41-42



Figure 3 Seasons of Creation Resources: Downloaded 22 August 2022

