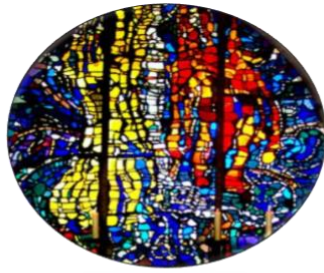


## **LAUDATO SI ACTION PLAN PRAYER SERVICE**



(Icon: This icon is found in the tomb of St. Arnold. Glass stones held together by resin symbolize the hands of God that reach out to creation: the yellow hand of Light and the red hand of the Spirit. The whole universe is filled with the Light and Life of God. Depicting our motto: May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the Light of the Word and the Spirit of grace)

Location of this prayer service: If possible, hold the prayer service where nature is visible.

Centerpiece: colored pieces of cloth arranged in a circle, with pictures/images of many different forms of destruction of Mother Earth, and elements of nature that you find in your room.

### **Introduction**

Leader: *"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters."* (Gen 1: 1 – 2) (silence for some moments)

In song, let us beg Jesus to send his Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

Song to the Holy Spirit (any lively song to the Spirit that the community is familiar with)  
(Note: while the song is being sung, someone will place a lighted candle in the middle of the pictures)

Leader: In response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, Pope Francis, in ***Laudato Si***, calls every human being to work towards "integral ecology", recognising that "everything is connected". Through the centuries, though, this connectedness has been broken. Relationships have been fragmented.

Today, in our community, let us launch the Laudato Si Action Platform, as we join the world community in responding to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors, and the Earth itself.

(Note: while each response/call is read, a corresponding picture/image is placed in the centerpiece; you may use whatever picture/image is available in your place)

- **Response to the cry of the earth** - a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.



- **Response to the cry of the poor** - a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.



- **Ecological economics** - acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.



- **Adoption of sustainable lifestyles** - is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.



- **Ecological education** - is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action



- **Ecological spirituality** - recovers a religious vision of God's creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude.



- **Community engagement and participatory action** - encourage the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it.



## Psalm 104

Leader: To our Creator for his wondrous deeds in our cosmos, let us offer him this psalm of praise.

Reader 1: *Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and splendor, robed in light as with a cloak. You spread out the heavens like a tent; setting the beams of your chambers upon the waters. You make the clouds your chariot; traveling on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers; flaming fire, your ministers. (vs. 1- 4)*

(Let us pause as we behold the splendor of God's creation).

Reader 2: *You fixed the earth on its foundation, so it can never be shaken. The deeps covered it like a garment; above the mountains stood the waters. At your rebuke they took flight; at the sound of your thunder, they fled. They rushed up the mountains, down the valleys to the place you had fixed for them. You set a limit they cannot pass; never again will they cover the earth. (vs. 5-9)*

(Let us pause as we, one with nature, interacting with our Creator God.)

Reader 1: *You made springs flow in wadies that wind among the mountains. They give drink to every beast of the field; here wild asses quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of heaven nest; among the branches they sing. You water the mountains from your chambers; from the fruit of your labor the earth abounds. You make the grass grow for the cattle and plants for people's work to bring forth food from the earth, wine to gladden their hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread to sustain the human heart. The trees of the LORD drink their fill, the cedars of Lebanon, which you planted. 17There the birds build their nests; the stork in the junipers, its home. The high mountains are for wild goats; the rocky cliffs, a refuge for badgers. (vs. 10-18)*

(Let us pause as we contemplate, with every living creature, receiving provisions from our Creator God.)

Reader 2: *You made the moon to mark the seasons, the sun that knows the hour of its setting. You bring darkness and night falls, then all the animals of the forest wander about. Young lions roar for prey; they seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they steal away and settle down in their dens. People go out to their work, to their labor till evening falls. (vs. 19-23)*

(Let us pause as we listen to the voices of our fellow creatures all around us.)

**Song:** Canticle of the Sun (or any song – in one’s culture - that reflects God’s creation)

### **Reading – Job 12:7-10**

*But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all beings.*

### **Silent reflection**

#### **Prayers of petition**

Leader: *The Laudato Si’ Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and “all men and women of good will.” (LS 3)... rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take “decisive action, here and now” as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161) (silence for some moments)*

Prayer: That our Creator God gift us with the strength and joy of the Spirit so that we may walk the “path to renewal” together (LS 202) towards a better future, through the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.

Let us pray: Hear our prayer, O Creator God.

Leader: *We cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. (LS 48) (silence for some moments)*

Prayer: That our Creator God fill us with the Spirit of Wisdom to help us realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach...to integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.* (LS 49)

Let us pray: Hear our prayer, O Creator God.

Leader: *If we acknowledge the value and the fragility of nature and, at the same time, our God-given abilities, we can finally leave behind the modern myth of unlimited material progress. (LS 78) (silence for some moments)*

Prayer: That our Creator God enlighten us with the Spirit of Counsel, guiding us in planning intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power. (LS 78)

Let us pray: Hear our prayer, O Creator God.

Leader: *If the present ecological crisis is one small sign of the ethical, cultural and spiritual crisis of modernity, we cannot presume to heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships.* (LS 119)

Prayer: That our Creator God enfold us with the Spirit of Knowledge that we may be open to others, each of whom is a “thou” capable of knowing, loving and entering into dialogue, which remains the source of our nobility as human persons. (LS 119)  
(silence for some moments)

Let us pray: Hear our prayer, O Creator God.

Leader: *When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it.* (LS 139)

Prayer: That our Creator God embrace us with the Spirit of Fortitude in our striving to bring about a humanism capable of bringing together the different kinds of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision. (LS 141)  
(silence for some moments)

Let us pray: Hear our prayer, O Creator God.

Leader: *There is nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle.* (LS 211)

Prayer: That our Creator God imbue us with the Spirit of Understanding that education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us...(LS 211) (silence for some moments)

Let us pray: Hear our prayer, O Creator God.

Leader: In the silence of our hearts, let us also pray for our brothers and sisters all over the world, experiencing suffering in many forms like hunger, homelessness, wars, sexual abuse, sickness, especially of the Covid-19 at this time

**Our Father** (can be prayed in your own language and/or with a gesture that you are comfortable with)

**Closing prayer** (by Pope Francis from *Laudato Si*)

***A prayer for our earth***

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 recognize 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. Amen.

Concluding Song: (maybe a song to Mary)