



Archdiocese of Vancouver  
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE  
August 31, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Earlier this month, Pope Francis instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, an annual celebration to commence Tuesday, September 1.

This new day of prayer follows the tradition of the Orthodox Churches who similarly celebrate on this date, making this in the words of the Pope, “a valuable opportunity to bear witness to our growing communion with our Orthodox brothers and sisters.”

The Pope’s recent encyclical *Laudato Si* calls us to respond to the ecological crisis the world is experiencing. It summons us to a profound spiritual conversion in which our relationship with Jesus is reflected in our relationship with God, our neighbour, and the world around us.

The Day of Prayer for Creation, says Pope Francis, is “an opportunity to reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

With the Pope, I look forward to this World Day serving as “a sign of a common journey in which all believers in Christ take part,” and I invite other churches and ecclesial communities to join us in celebrating this day in true ecumenical prayer for the future of God’s creation.

I encourage all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and all people of goodwill, to use this day as Pope Francis intends: as a “significant occasion for prayer, reflection, conversion and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles.”

The prayer below appeared at the end of the Pope’s encyclical. It may help you to prepare for and celebrate this new day of prayer for the care of our common home.

With cordial best wishes and the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ J. Michael Miller, CSB

Archbishop of Vancouver

4885 Saint John Paul II Way | Vancouver, BC | V5Z 0G3

Telephone: 604 443-3203 | Facsimile: 604 681-8355

[rcavbishop@rcav.org](mailto:rcavbishop@rcav.org)

## A Christian prayer in union with creation

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  
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!  
Amen.