

## All the Prayers of God's People

September 8, 2020

In the Presbyterian USA Calendar, September 1<sup>st</sup> marks something called "The World Day of Prayer of Creation". On the one hand, this seems like a made-up holiday. On the other, when doing a little digging, there are large ministries based around creation prayer and sustenance for God's planet. It brings to mind the beginning attempts at SOPC to become earth friendly in our actions, but what is this season of creation, really?

One article I read presented it like this: "In the United States, the most basic, powerful, and counter-cultural thing we can do for God's creation is pray. The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation kicks off the *Season of Creation*, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a *month and four days*. We live in a culture that values busy-ness and accomplishments. Following our Creator's call to "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) humbles us. With prayer, we become open to God's guidance, inspiration, and call to action. With prayer, God knits us closer together in community. Only by the grace and inspiration of God can hearts and minds transform"<sup>1</sup>. I would also add that with prayer, for the next month of this season, we can each individually do something perhaps different that better cares for the earth and God's creation. Maybe that is to drive less or use less plastic, maybe it is planting a tree or making green space, we all can do something.

As we have learned by now, we have many different ways of praying. Whether you take time to go on a meditative nature walk, celebrate liturgy in community, engage with scripture, speak sacred words aloud, or sing your prayers, it matters.

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together, joining our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. This year especially amid crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other.

During the season in 2020, let's enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation. The Season of Creation unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://seasonofcreation.org>