

Prayers for the Unity of All Creation

Give Praise to the Lord

God of Grace,

The psalmist says, "Let everything that has breath give praise to the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6).

And yet:

The waters cannot give praise when they are polluted, and the creatures cannot give praise when they are contaminated.

The air cannot give praise when filled with smoke, and the people cannot give praise when they can't breathe.

The trees cannot give praise when they are cut down, and the animals cannot give praise when their habitat is gone.

The land cannot give praise when it is covered with garbage, and the people cannot give praise when they are living in filth.

The planet cannot give praise when it is being destroyed, and creatures cannot give praise when struggling to survive.

All of creation cannot give praise when any part of creation suffers.

God, help me to recognize my connection to all of creation.

Though I may not be able to change the whole world, empower me to do what I can and help all of creation to praise you.

Amen.

Teach Us to Care

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth.

Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the land, the seas, and the skies.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.

Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the forest, and the air.

Christ, teach us to care.

Amen.

Reflection

The Community of Creation

What communities do you belong to? Many answer this question with references to family, school, sports teams, music groups, clubs, and many others.

But how often do people answer that one of their communities is the community of creation? In the account of Creation found in Genesis, chapter 2, humans are created in relation to one another and to the rest of creation. All are created from the same dust of the ground—plant, animal and human—and form a community. All of creation is interdependent and owes its very existence to God. As humans, we live not apart from, or above all creation, but rather as a part of it. We belong to the community—or the communion—of creation.

Pope Francis reminds us of this in his 2015 teaching called “*Laudato Si’*,” calling us to live with a “loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion” (220).

You, along with all of nature, are part of the community of creation. How might that connection influence the way you think about your relationship with the Earth?