



**JAEI**


## September 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary



### Season of Creation




Season of  
Creation  
2017

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world are praying and caring for creation. It's the "Season of Creation" celebrated by Christian churches around the globe.

<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</b></p> <p><i>".... As Christians, we wish to contribute to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing. In doing so, we must first rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motivations for our concern for the care of creation.</i></p>  <p><i>We need always to keep in mind that, for believers in Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for our sake, "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us" (<a href="#">Laudato Si'</a>, 216). The ecological crisis thus summons us to a profound spiritual conversion: Christians are called to "an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them" (ibid., 217). For "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (ibid.).</i></p> <p><i>The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their 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. The celebration of this Day, on the same date as the Orthodox Church, will be a valuable opportunity to bear witness to our growing communion with our Orthodox brothers and sisters. We live at a time when all Christians are faced with the same decisive challenges, to which we must respond together, in order to be more credible and effective. It is my hope that this Day will in some way also involve other Churches and ecclesial Communities, and be celebrated in union with similar initiatives of the World Council of Churches " - <b>Pope Francis</b></i></p> <p><b>September 1</b> was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation by the Orthodox Church in 1989, and many other Christian churches have joined since then, such as the Anglican Church in 2012 (Anglican Consultative Council) and the Catholic Church most recently in 2015.</p> <p><b>Join the rest of the World to pray for Creation today!</b></p>
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<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b><i>International Vulture Day</i></b></p> <p>International Vulture Day is a joint effort of South Africa's Birds of Prey Programme and England's Hawk Conservancy Trust is a day to consider the ecological importance of a bird of prey that is otherwise mostly dismissed with a shudder</p>  <p>With most species under severe threat of extinction - this awareness day aims to educate a reluctant public in the critical role of this creature to the well-being of the environment. With vultures traditionally being perceived as representing death and decay, conservationists involved in preserving their numbers have faced an uphill battle in fund-raising efforts and in making theirs a more sympathetic cause. The key role of the vulture in signalling the presence of a carcass to other scavengers prevents contamination by pathogens and helps keep nature free of disease.</p> <p><b><i>Pray for:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceptions of this magnificent bird to be changed</li> <li>• For funding for the conservation of this iconic species to be made available.</li> <li>• Give thanks for the many people involved in this project: that may they be truly blessed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>"We need an imaginative commitment to new ways of approaching the subject of climate change that does not accept a deterministic or selfish nationalistic policy. We cannot simply look at ourselves and say, 'we must do better', and kick the ladder away from the vast majority of humankind that is struggling to find the prosperity that we enjoy so richly. This is not a standalone issue. It cuts across all we do."</p> <p><b><i>Archbishop Justin Welby (2015)</i></b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>National Arbor Week</b></p>  <p>Give thanks for the awesome beauty, variety and diversity of plants in our Country. Pray for forgiveness when we have taken this beauty for granted and pray that each one of us will utilize and care for this resource wisely.</p> <p>Indigenous plants provide a home for wildlife and a far better suited to our water-stressed environment. They also provide a barrier against soil erosion and are often used for natural remedies on which hundreds of people depend.</p> <p>To help increase public awareness of just a few of the 2,000 indigenous tree species in South Africa, every Arbor Week celebration highlights two specific trees; one common and one rare species</p> <p><i>The trees for 2017 are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Common tree:</b> <a href="#"><i>Ziziphus mucronata</i></a> (Hairy buffalo-thorn)</li> <li>• <b>Rare tree:</b> <a href="#"><i>Euclea pseudebenus</i></a> (Ebony tree)</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Action - Plant a tree this week! ..... show you care!</i></b></p>

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Mark4:30-32</b></p> <p><b><i>The Parable of the Mustard Seed</i></b></p> <p><sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Earth</b>  <i>(based on the fifth mark of mission - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth)</i></p> <p><b>To Strive...</b></p> <p>God, creator of the universe,  Fill us with your love for the creation,  for the natural world around us,  for the earth from which we come  and to which we will return.  Awake in us energy to work for your world;  let us never fall into complacency, ignorance,  or being overwhelmed by the task before us.  Help us to restore, remake, renew. Amen</p> <p><i>Anne Richards, Mission Theology Advisory Group, <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">www.ctbi.org.uk</a>  The Dispossession Project: Eco-House</i></p> 
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Reflection:</b></p> <p><b><i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></b></p> <p>“228. Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a “universal fraternity”.</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully</i></b> reflect on this</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Creator God, how deep are your designs!  You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind, and charged us with their care.  We confess that the way we live today is changing the climate, the seas and the balance of life,  dispossessing the poor and future generations.  Build our lives into an Ark for all creation,  and, as you promised Noah never to repeat the flood,  so make us heralds of a new rainbow covenant:  Choosing life for all that is at risk – for creation, neighbours near and far,  our children and ourselves. Amen.</p>



<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Creation Calls</b></p> <p>I have felt the wind blow, Whispering your name I have seen your tears fall, When I watch the rain.</p> <p>How could I say there is no God? When all around creation calls!! A singing bird, a mighty tree, The vast expanse of open sea</p> <p>Gazing at a bird in flight, Soaring through the air. Lying down beneath the stars, I feel your presence there.</p> <p>I love to stand at ocean shore And feel the thundering breakers roar, To walk through golden fields of grain With endless bloom horizons fray.</p> <p>Listening to a river run, Watering the Earth. Fragrance of a rose in bloom, A new-born's cry at birth.</p> <p>I believe I believe just like a child I believe</p> <p><b>Brian Doerksen</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Affirmation of faith</b></p> <p>We have faith <i>in One God, one Source of all life. One Ground of the whole earth, with all her creatures.</i></p> <p>And thus we have faith <i>in the fullness of earth's life, in the innate worth of all her dependents, in human partnership in the life of nature.</i></p> <p>And we have faith <i>that in Christ we have been shown the</i></p>





		<p><i>special role of the human race to bear God's likeness in working and caring for the earth, in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers, in gently working with these powers for the well being of all children of the earth.</i></p> <p>And we have faith <i>All that God's Spirit will lead us to sensitive closeness with earth's life.</i></p>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b>	<p><b>Prayer for the Earth</b> <i>(based on the fifth mark of mission - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth)</i></p> <p><b>To Safeguard...</b></p> <p>Jesus, Redeemer of the World, Remind us to consider the lost lilies, the disappearing sparrows; teach us not to squander precious resources; help us value habitats: seas, deserts, forests and seek to preserve this world in its diversity. Alert us to the cause of all living creatures destroyed wantonly for human greed or pleasure; Help us to value what we have left and to learn to live without taking more than we give. Amen</p> <p><b>Anne Richards</b>, Mission Theology Advisory Group, <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">www.ctbi.org.uk</a> <i>The Dispossession Project: Eco-House</i></p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	<p><b>SDG Goal #13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Pray</b> that this Target may be achieved</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	<p>Just as we would have no need of the farmer's labour and toil if we were living amid the delights of paradise, so also we would not require the medical art for relief if we were immune to disease, as was the case, by God's gift, at the time of Creation before the Fall.</p> <p><b>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)</b></p>



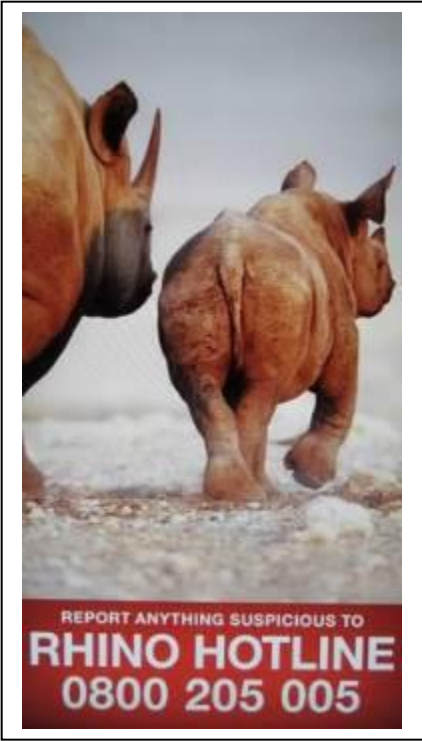


<p>Thursday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p><i>Today is the day for some personal reflection .....</i></p> <div data-bbox="630 184 1263 604" style="text-align: center;">  <p>“Very often a change of self is needed more than a change of scene.” ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON</p> </div>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>“The world has been created for everyone's use, but you few rich are trying to keep it for yourselves. For not merely the possession of the earth, but the very sky, the air, and the sea are claimed for the use of the rich few. ... The earth belongs to all, not just to the rich”.</p> <p><b>St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)</b></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p><b>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</b></p> <div data-bbox="1031 867 1490 1115" style="float: right;">  </div> <p>The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.</p> <p>The phaseout of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change; furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth.</p> <p>“168. Among positive experiences in this regard, we might mention, for example, the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, with its system of reporting, standards and controls. There is also the binding Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, which includes on-site visits for verifying effective compliance. Thanks to the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and its implementation through the Montreal Protocol and amendments, the problem of the layer’s thinning seems to have entered a phase of resolution.” - <b>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</b></p> <p><b>Give thanks</b> for the advances in the protection of the ozone layer, and <b>pray</b> that all governments will continue work together to find ways to protect our earth.</p>

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>17</p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Earth</b>  <i>(based on the fifth mark of mission - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth)</i></p> <p><b>Integrity of Creation...</b></p> <p>Spirit of the Living God  At the beginning you moved over the face of the waters.  You brought life into being, the teeming life  that finds its way through earth and sea and air,  that makes its home around us, everywhere.  You know how living things flourish and grow  How they co-exist; how they feed and breed and change  Help us to understand those delicate relationships,  value them, and keep them from destruction. Amen</p> <p><b>Anne Richards</b>, Mission Theology Advisory Group, <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">www.ctbi.org.uk</a>  <i>The Dispossession Project: Eco-House</i></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>18</p>	<p><b>National Clean-up Week</b></p> <p>Giver of Life,  in the midst of a plundered  earth we groan with creation:  <b>Have mercy on us.</b></p> <p>Giver of Life,  in the midst of poisoned water  we groan with creation:  <b>Have mercy on us.</b></p> <p>Giver of Life,  in the midst of polluted air  we groan with creation:  <b>Have mercy on us.</b></p> <p>Giver of Life,  in the midst of mountains of waste  we groan with creation:  <b>Have mercy on us.</b></p> <p>Giver of Life,  in the midst of a world of war  we groan with creation:  <b>Have mercy on us.</b></p> <p>Giver of Life,  we who are made in the image of God have gone astray,  and creation groans with us:  <b>Have mercy on us.</b></p> <p><b>Source: Worshipping Ecumenically, WCC Publications</b></p> <div data-bbox="912 947 1479 1394" data-label="Image"> <p>The logo consists of a circular arrow graphic with an orange top half and a green bottom half. Inside the circle, the text 'Let's Clean up &amp; GREEN UP' is written in a stylized, bubbly font. 'Let's' is in green, 'Clean up' is in orange, '&amp;' is in green, 'GREEN' is in green, and 'UP' is in green.</p> </div>

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>When the last tree has been felled and when the last river has been seized, only then will we finally realize that we cannot eat money</p> <p><i>Chief Seattle</i></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>National Recycling Day</b></p> <p>Living God Where there is waste, let us bring recycling, Where there is recycling, let us bring reuse, Where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability, Where there is sustainability, let us bring justice Where there is justice, let us bring love Source:</p> <p><i>John Polhill (from Eggs and Ashes published by Wildgoose)</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>International Peace Day</b></p> <p><b>Prayer of St. Francis</b></p> <p>Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.</p>  <p>O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen</p> 



<p>Friday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p><b>World Rhino Day</b></p> <p>I am Rhino - Hear me weep  As my family fades around me  And my babies die in defeat</p> <p>We are ancient children of this Earth  What did we ever do in our Wildness to deserve  This hell you serve us day by day  Nowhere to run to - No home to stay</p> <p>We are strong and wild and free  Sometimes...  If you humans would just let us be  We have no argument with you</p> <p>We have to live here - it is our home too  When will you start to hear our voice?  You are humans, you rule  You always have a choice!</p> <p>I am Rhino - Hear me cry  Choose to protect me  Do not let me die  I am strong  But without you I am weak</p> <p>From the sharp tip  Of my precious worthless horn  To the soft soles  Of my flower-shaped feet  I am Rhino - And I bleed</p> <p><i>CJ Carrington 2016</i>  <a href="http://www.Wildheartwildlifefoundation.org">www.Wildheartwildlifefoundation.org</a></p>  <p>Heavenly Father, we beg you to prevent the extinction of rhinos in Southern Africa. Please raise up courageous men and women to protect them, strengthen those already involved in their protection, and grow people's generosity in funding them so that the rhino population may once again reach sustainable levels. Please change the hearts of the corrupt, of all those involved in poaching syndicates, and of the consumers of ivory who care more for personal status than the flourishing of your creation. Let them remember that rhinos ultimately belong to you, and that we are your stewards, commissioned to serve and protect all of your creation for your glory. Let them be convicted by their actions, seek your forgiveness, and instead do good. Help us to share your gospel with others, because the world's rejection of you is the root cause of poaching and all other human evils. Help us to trust that you are in still control and that you care for your creation, even when the situation looks so dire.</p> <p>In Jesus name, Amen.</p>
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<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17</b></p> <p>Paul tells the church at Corinth that one died for all and therefore all died. Since Christ died for all, we should no longer live for ourselves, but instead live for Christ, who died for us and was raised again. Paul discusses our earthly and heavenly requirements and concludes the brief passage by telling us that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come.”</p> <p>It is time for change and to live in a different way. Our environmental stewardship is part of our being with Christ and being part of the new order. Recycling is part of nature and an important part of the concept of sustainability. We cannot have a sustainable society if we use things once and throw them away. We need to adopt the old standard, “Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.” Recycling programs mimic the recycling that goes on in nature, where nothing is wasted and everything, even things that die, serve a useful purpose.</p> <p><i><b>From Anglican Youth</b> “Reduce, Reuse &amp; Recycle” - Green Anglicans Office (ACSA Environmental Network)</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Heritage Day</b></p> <p><b>For Our Country</b>  <i>*Adapted from William Laud, 1573-1645</i></p> <p>Lord, bless our country,  that faith and love may season  the hearts and minds of all  our leaders—</p> <p>Those who stand out among  us: politicians, judges,  scholars, and the rich and  powerful.  Fill them with a new love for  Your ways,  that with justice and mercy  they may become the very salt our earth,  and worthy trustees of the gifts and responsibilities  You have given them.  Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  Amen.</p> <div data-bbox="797 1003 1511 1528" data-label="Image"> </div>

<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Earth</b>  <i>(based on the fifth mark of mission - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth)</i></p> <p><b>To Sustain...</b>  God, of the living earth  You have called people to care for your world -  you asked Noah to save creatures from destruction.  May we now understand how to sustain your world –  Not over-fishing, not over-hunting,  Not destroying trees, precious rainforest  Not farming soil into useless dust.  Help us to find ways to use resources wisely  to find a path to good, sustainable living  in peace and harmony with creatures around us. Amen</p> <p><b>Anne Richards, Mission Theology Advisory Group, <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">www.ctbi.org.uk</a></b>  <i>The Dispossession Project: Eco-House</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>I arise today, through  The strength of heaven,  The light of the sun,  The radiance of the moon,  The splendour of fire,  The speed of lightning,  The swiftness of wind,  The depth of the sea,  The stability of the earth,  The firmness of rock.  I arise today  Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  Through belief in the Threeness,  Through confession of the Oneness  of the Creator of creation.</p> <p><b>Prayer of St Patrick</b></p> <div data-bbox="1057 898 1453 1201" data-label="Image"> <p>Thank you, God, for butterflies,  for colors pure and bright.  Thank you, God, for Jesus, too,  His glory, grace and light!</p> <p><small>© Anne Richards</small></p> </div>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>1 John 2:15-17</b></p> <p>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.</p>

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>“If I were to choose the sights, the sounds, the fragrances I most would want to see and hear and smell--among all the delights of the open world--on a final day on earth, I think I would choose these: the clear, ethereal song of a white-throated sparrow singing at dawn; the smell of pine trees in the heat of the noon; the lonely calling of Canada geese; the sight of a dragon-fly glinting in the sunshine; the voice of a hermit thrush far in a darkening woods at evening; and--most spiritual and moving of sights--the white cathedral of a cumulus cloud floating serenely in the blue of the sky.”</p> <p><b>Edwin Way Teale, "On a Final Day"</b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Earth</b>  <i>(based on the fifth mark of mission - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth)</i></p> <p><b>To Renew ...</b></p> <p>Jesus, who raised the dead to life  Help us to find ways to renew what we have broken,  damaged and destroyed:  Where we have taken too much water,  polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea,  cut down the forests and soured fertile soils.  Help all those who work to find solutions to  damage and decay; give hope to those who are today working for a greener future.  Amen</p> <p><b>Anne Richards, Mission Theology Advisory Group, <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">www.ctbi.org.uk</a></b>  <i>The Dispossession Project: Eco-House</i></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>World Rivers Day</b></p> <p>World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.</p> <p><b>“Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense.” - - Mark Angelo</b></p> <p>Thank you, great God, for all your wonders,  especially the beauty of nature, of which we are part.  Thank you in particular for the splendour of flowing water,  especially that which, cascading over rock,  rides across uneven surfaces and jumps into the air  on its journey.  Amen</p> <p><b>Kenneth Randolph Taylor</b></p> 