





JAEI

February 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary


<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Give thanks for the rain that has fallen, but also pray for those who were negatively affected by it – some even lost their lives.</p> <p>Pray for rain to continue to fall in the areas that so desperately need it.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>World Wetlands Day</u></p> <p>If there is a wetland near you, spend some time observing how this eco-system works – it is instrumental to filtering water, preventing flooding and is home to many animals and insects.</p>  <p>And if the wetland is ailing, encourage your congregation to dedicate a day to restoring this space, for example by collecting rubbish from the surrounding area and within the wetland itself.</p> <p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give thanks for the many services that a Wetland provides to us without any cost to us • The many people who are involved in Wetland Management • The many people who derive their livelihood from a Wetland System • For the many species who are dependent on a Wetland system
<p>Friday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>God of grace, we thank you for the gift of life you give us pray for those who work to care for creation: those preserving forests and oceans, air and water, animals and plants. Help us to protect the environment so that all life may flourish.</p> <p>God of life - hear our prayer</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Appeal from Revd Trevor Pearce and the Growing the Church Team:</p> <p>No doubt, all of us are aware of South Africa's ongoing drought. Some schools in the Johannesburg area have shut down due to the lack of water. The Eastern Cape is dry as a bone. In the Western Cape, we are facing a dire situation. Fueled by strong winds, fires are ragging in our mountains, and the Western Cape has less than 100 days of water supply. All of us as South Africans need to pray, and we are calling on our friends in nearby and faraway countries to pray for us as well.</p>


		<p>Let Us Commit to Pray</p> <p>Ds. Braam Hanekom from the Western Cape Ecumenical Forum is calling for people to commit each day for ten minutes to pray for rain. On Sunday, 5 February, the Western Cape Ecumenical Forum will be hosting a worship and prayer gathering for the healing of our land. This will take place at His People N1 City, 14:30-16:30. If you do not live in the Cape Town area, please consider coming together as a community to pray together as a Christian family on that day wherever you are.</p> <p>We are asking all clergy to encourage their people to step up to the challenge of praying ten minutes each day for rain and to either advertise the prayer gathering at His People on 5 February or to help mobilise people to pray as a community on the same day.</p>
Monday	6	<p>Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the diversity of land and sea, for the resources of the earth. Give us the will to cherish this planet and use its riches for the good and welfare of all.</p> <p><i>God of life - hear our prayer.</i></p>
Tuesday	7	<p>“Angels, living light most glorious! Beneath the Godhead in burning desire in the darkness and mystery of creation you look on the eye of your God never taking your fill: What glorious pleasures take shape within you! “</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen, "O gloriosissimi"</i></p>
Wednesday	8	 <p>Our mind must make peace with our heart before we can witness peace in the world.</p> <p><small>Kozana Jones / kozana.jones.com</small></p>

Thursday	9	<p>God our Creator, we thank you for the warmth of the sun, the light of the moon, the glory of the stars and the clean air we breathe. Save us from wasting or abusing the energy upon which all life depends. God of life <i>God of life - hear our prayer</i></p>
Friday	10	<p>Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i></p>
Saturday	11	<p>Many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away the hunger. <i>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4th century)</i></p>
Sunday	12	<p>Alternative Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Loving Presence, luminous in all creation, Hallowed be your name. Thy kin-dom come. May we reflect on Earth The yielding perfection of the heavens. Help us to receive an illumined measure from Earth this day. Forgive us when we trespass against others, Human and other-than-human, As we forgive others who trespass against us. Keep us on the path of wisdom When we are tempted to take the selfish path. May it be your rule we follow, Your power we exercise, And your radiance that allures. May this be the truth that guides our lives, The ground from which our future will grow, Until we meet again.</p> <p><i>Bruce Sanguin, Darwin, "Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos: An Ecological Christianity."</i></p>
Monday	13	<p>Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, founded on the covenant of your love. Amen.</p>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p><u>Earth Keeper Day</u>: instead of celebrating Valentine's Day and individual love, we would like to invite all Earth Keepers to celebrate love for Creation. Get in touch with us for ideas and resources or let us know your plans, whether it is a special sermon, or an action you'd like to undertake.</p> <p>This February we at SAFCEI and SAFCEI Partners (<i>Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute</i>) will be celebrating the annual Earth Keeper Day and invite all faith communities to join us. This is a response to the increasing commercialisation of Valentine's Day; instead of celebrating individual love, we would like to mark the weekend of the 12th– 14th February as a multi-faith Earth Keeper Day to celebrate our love for Creation.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Lord, in your love hear our prayer: Lord, have mercy. You give bread to the hungry and are present to your whole evolving earth community. Teach us how to love and care for your creatures. You give sight to the blind. Free us from the blindness that blinds us to the good in all creation. We and all your creatures depend on you. Help us to love all our fellow creatures and teach us the best ways to care for them and let them be. We thank you for allowing us to share in your works of mercy. May your sacred loving heart love us always. Amen.</p>



<p>Thursday</p>	<p>16</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>SDG Target #17</p> <p>Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress</p> <p><i>Pray</i> that there will be the will and resources so that this goal may be attained</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Today is the JAEI AGM!</p> <p>Pray for the JAEI Committee as they highlight the 5th Mark of Mission to our Diocese – <i>“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”</i></p> <p>The ‘Five Marks of Mission’ were first developed as four marks by the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in 1984, and became five in 1990. Having appreciated the missiological and biblical implications of the creation and environmental crisis, the Anglican Consultative Council decided that a new mark of mission that captured this understanding was inevitable. In adopting the new (and fifth) mark of mission, the ACC-8 stated, at its 1990 meeting in Wales, that “We now feel that our understanding of the ecological crisis, and indeed of the threats to the unity of all creation, mean that we have to add a fifth affirmation.”</p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>“If unconditional love, loyalty, and obedience are the tickets to an eternal life, then my black Labrador, Venus, will surely be there long before me, along with all the dear animals in nature who care for their young at great cost to themselves and have suffered so much at the hands of humans.”</p> <p><i>Richard Rohr</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>20</p>	 <p>“TO THOSE WHO MAY BE DISCOURAGED BY NAYSAYERS, LET ME REMIND YOU, THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWAKENING IS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE SO FAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN BECAUSE OF PEOPLE, NOT GOVERNMENTS!”</p> <p>- LEONARDO DICAPRIO, SPEAKING AT THE UN AWARDS CEREMONY, 16/12/2016</p> <p>1MILLION women</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>We pray for a just and fair relationship between the farmer and the retailer; for researchers and academics, for food writers and political commentators, for government officials and all those involved in shaping public policies and attitudes to food production and consumption; for the reduction in food waste and a new valuing and honouring of the fruits of the earth.</p> <p>Lord of all life: Hear our prayer.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>22 – 24 February <u>rescheduled nuclear court hearing</u>: the court case on the government’s nuclear energy deal was postponed from the 13th December to this year February, due to a last minute change by the Department of Energy which side-lined the proceedings. We will be gathering outside the Western Cape High Court on these days.</p> <p>Pray for God’s hand to be on SAFCEI (<i>Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute</i>) as they deal with this hugely important issue</p>

en	23	<p><i>“The heavens may still declare the glory of God, but we look up not at the heavens but at neon reflected on smog; we walk not on the good earth but on asphalt. Our estrangement from nature is no longer conceptual only: it has acquired an experiential grounding. Figuratively, we are all in the position of the child who has never seen, never mind milked, a cow, and whose lived experience constantly provides an experiential confirmation for the assumption that milk comes from a supermarket cooler.”</i></p> <p>A quote from Erazim Kohak's book "The Embers and the Stars"</p> <p>Consider how we can become reconnected with nature – the environment that supports us.</p>
Friday	24	<p>Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - <i>Laudato Si</i></p> <p>“In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. The Australian bishops spoke of the importance of such conversion for achieving reconciliation with creation: “To achieve such reconciliation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God’s creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart”.</p> <p>Prayerfully consider how to change hearts</p>
Saturday	25	<p>Leap day for Frogs</p> <p>Many of our frogs and toads face enormous challenges. These amphibians are critically important to the food web, which ultimately affects us</p> <p>Pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for those involved in conservation efforts of these valuable animals • Consider personal actions to protect these valuable animals <div data-bbox="1068 1136 1451 1339" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1068 1346 1451 1486" data-label="Caption"> <p><i>The Giant bullfrog is a near-threatened species in South Africa because of habitat lost and pollution of waterways.</i></p> </div>
Sunday	26	<p>Save us, O Lord, from over-reliance on human ingenuity and short-term solutions as we strive to repair the damage that we have wrought to your world. Acknowledging our reason as your most precious gift, inspire us to put our trust in you alone, who gave us your Son for our salvation.</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God upon the lyre! He covers the heavens with clouds, he prepares rain for the earth, he makes grass grow upon the hills, He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens which cry. ‘Praise the Lord’. His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man.</p> <p>He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat. He sends forth his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. He casts forth his ice like morsels; who can stand before his cold? He sends forth his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.</p> <p><i>Psalm 147. 7-10; 14-18.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>“Humanity, take a good look at yourself. Inside, you’ve got heaven and earth, and all of creation. You’re a world - everything is hidden in you.”</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen</i></p>

**"IF WE DO NOT PERMIT
THE EARTH TO PRODUCE
BEAUTY AND JOY,**

**IT WILL IN THE
END NOT PRODUCE
FOOD, EITHER."**

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH
(1893-1970)

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