





JAEI

**December 2017
Environmental Prayer Diary**



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| <p>Friday</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>A Song of the Wilderness (Advent)</p> <p>1 The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, the desert shall blossom and burst into song. 2 They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, coming with judgement to save you.' 5 Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. 7 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 8 The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. 9 Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.</p> <p><i>Isaiah 35.1,2b-4a,4c-6,10</i></p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>SDG Goal #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 million small farms worldwide, most still rainfed, provide up to 80 per cent of food consumed in a large part of the developing world. Investing in smallholder women and men is an important way to increase food security and nutrition for the poorest, as well as food production for local and global markets. <p><i>Pray</i> that this Target may be achieved.</p> |



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| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>First Sunday of Advent,</p> <p>God of Advent, as we enter the season of rest for our land, we await the coming of the righteous Branch of David, who promises to bring justice to our land and to all creatures. May our footprints upon the earth be small and light, a worthy legacy for future generations.</p> |
| <p>Monday</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>“He who works with his hands is a labourer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.”</p> <p>Francis of Assisi</p>  |
| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>International Soil Day</p> <p>Soil is an essential resource and a vital part of the natural environment from which most of the global food is produced. At the same time, soil provides living space for humans, as well as essential ecosystem services which are important for water regulation and supply, climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and cultural services. But soils are under pressure from increases in population, higher demands for food and competing land uses. Approximately 33% of our global soils are degraded and policy makers around the world are exploring opportunities to embrace sustainable development via the sustainable development goals.</p>  <p>Prayer:</p> <p>Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil. It through the gift of soil that we have life on earth. We thank you for the creation of rocks, tops oil, clay, silt, sand, peat, chalk and loamy soil. We thank you for the wind and the rain to transform rocks into soil for our use and nourishment. We thank you for valleys and mountains, for deserts, rain forests, and tundra. We thank you for prairies and swamps, savannas and coastlines, canyons and riverbeds. We thank you for the soil that nourishes our crops, soil that filters our groundwater, and soil that holds water for our future use in creek beds, lake beds, and river beds. We thank you for soil that allows us to grow our food and upon which we build our homes. Help us, Lord, to make wise use of the gift of soil. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil. Amen</p> |

Wednesday

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“As inhabitants of this precious Earth, I believe each of us must play a role in protecting its finite resources. But before you decide your next course of action - be it attending a climate march or writing a check to your favourite eco-friendly charity - I suggest that you first be still, close your eyes, and listen to the whisperings of your soul.



Because though we all know what we need to do to address the concrete outer dimensions of the climate challenge - through science, politics and energy - I believe that work must be grounded in what I call the “inner dimensions” to climate action. Before we can act effectively, we must find in our hearts the will to protect the vulnerable, the sense of responsibility to preserve the splendour of nature, and the bravery to change the world.

The Bible says to care for the most vulnerable, that we must protect “the least among us,” but this sentiment is hardly unique to Christianity. In the face of such overwhelmingly bad news, spiritual growth prepares us to withstand the constant stress of planetary crisis, to face the torrent of extreme weather disasters with a willingness to help instead of a retreat to denial and ignorance in the face of such widespread suffering.

Following this year’s climate negotiations, we hope that more and more of the faith-based climate activists will connect with one another and with their civil society partners to make the faith movement a powerful force in addressing the climate threat and protecting vulnerable communities.

While the external demands of climate action can feel overwhelming, cultivating the inner strength to face them is a matter of faith.

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus speaks of a widow whose demands for justice are met only after her unrelenting persistence, teaching us the importance of advocacy as prayer.

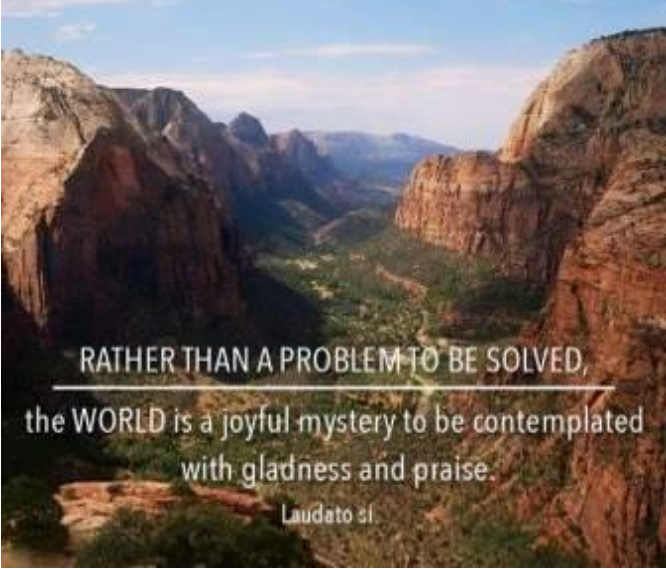
I have been guided by the belief that when I take action for justice, based on the values that have been formed in me by my faith, I am, in fact, praying.



I believe you, too, can find this guidance, whether you follow a deeply rooted faith practice or simply meditate on the stirrings of your heart. Within your heart are values, treasures really - compassion, courage, forgiveness, ambition. These values and more will reveal themselves if you open yourself to them. Our actions depend on these values. Climate action begins within. For me, climate action is prayer.”


The Right Rev. Marc Handley Andrus is the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California. The Episcopal Church has 1.8 million members in 16 countries.



Article abbreviated – read full article at

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Climate-action-begins-with-us-pray-12348977.php>

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| <p>Thursday</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>Read Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7 “The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil.”</p> <p>We are God’s special creation. It is God who fashions us and who breathes life into us.</p> <p>And how do we respond to this great gift of life? When faced with the many choices we must make, do we respond in the way of the first man and woman in Genesis by being swayed by those around us, or do we try and follow Jesus’ example and put our relationship with God first?</p> <p>It is difficult: our culture whispers in our ear that, never mind bread, we cannot survive without the latest mobile phone, TV or car. At times we think the only way to get on is to be seen doing great things and sharing them on social media. What seems to come first is worshipping the gods of our world – be it celebrities, consumer goods or personal fitness regimes. When making decisions, rather than looking to the word of God, our reference point is sometimes “what’s in it for me?”</p> <p>Does this resonate with you?</p> <p>Prayer: God of Life, Breathe in us once more, so that guided by your Spirit in the decisions that we make, we may choose what is life-giving for ourselves and for all people in our world. Amen.</p> <p><i>This reflection was written by Sue Cooper from Corpus Christi parish, Wokingham. www.cafod.org.uk</i></p> |
| <p>Friday</p> | <p>8</p> |  <p>RATHER THAN A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED, the WORLD is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise. Laudato si.</p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>The divine communicates to us primarily through the language of the natural world. Not to hear the natural world is not to hear the divine.</p> <p>Thomas Berry</p> |

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| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>Second Sunday of Advent,</p> <p>God of the wilderness, all the wild areas of the earth cry out for restoration and preservation. May we be mindful of the creatures of the deserts, the oceans and the forests, that the habitat you have given them will survive and prosper, so that they may live in abundance and in peace with all of their neighbours.</p> |
| <p>Monday</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>International Mountain Day</p> <p>Towering, majestic, and beautiful. Mountains are some of the most beautiful of nature's structures, stolid and regal they stand against the sky, of such a size that they can catch entire countryside's in their shadow, and turn back the ravages of storms against their unflinching sides. They are the source of recreation and resource, with hiking trails for enthusiasts and minerals in abundance to those brave enough to delve into their stony sides.</p>  <p>In certain areas of the world they are also a source of unique agriculture, providing ample space for the production of those products that grow best on their slopes. Coffee, Cocoa, Herbs, Spices, and the form of handicrafts that spring from the minds of those who live in the unchanging protection of these towering edifices to geology. International Mountain Day is your opportunity to head out and appreciate these unique landforms, and all they have to offer.</p> <p>Isaiah 52:7</p> <p><i>How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"</i></p> |
| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.</p> <p>Amen.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>SDG Goal #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</p> <p>Pray that this Target may be achieved.</p>  |


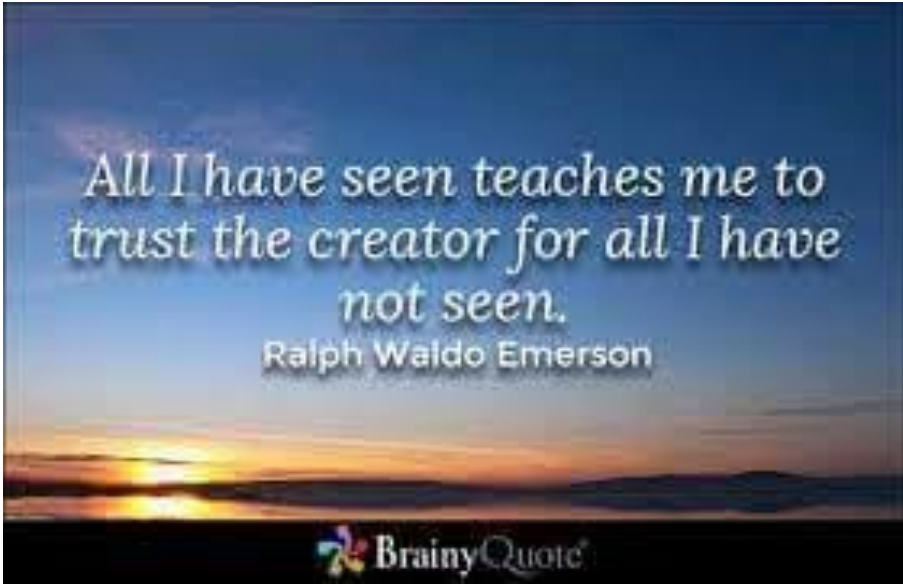
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| <p>Thursday</p> | <p>14</p> |  <p>"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you" Mother Teresa www.lords-prayer-words.com</p> |
| <p>Friday</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>Reflection: Pope Francis - Laudato Si "162. Our difficulty in taking up this challenge [<i>Justice between the generations</i>] seriously has much to do with an ethical and cultural decline which has accompanied the deterioration of the environment. Men and women of our postmodern world run the risk of rampant individualism, and many problems of society are connected with today's self-centred culture of instant gratification. We see this in the crisis of family and social ties and the difficulties of recognizing the other. Parents can be prone to impulsive and wasteful consumption, which then affects their children who find it increasingly difficult to acquire a home of their own and build a family. Furthermore, our inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and to give consideration to those who remain excluded from development. Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today's poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting. Hence, "in addition to a fairer sense of intergenerational solidarity there is also an urgent moral need for a renewed sense of intragenerational solidarity".</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort me and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend or stranger.</p> |

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| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>God of light, the daylight shortens as the winter solstice approaches. We await the coming of the Savoir whose light will never darken. Grant us during this Advent and winter nourishing rains and peaceful snowfalls to replenish the earth's aquifers, lakes and rivers. Restore the land so it will produce bountiful harvests for all your creatures. Then rushing rivers, glaciers and waterfalls will join in praising your name at the coming of spring.</p> |
| <p>Monday</p> | <p>18</p> |  |
| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the Sunset.</p> <p>Crowfoot</p>  |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>O gracious God, giver of all that is good we bless you for having given us life to share with so many other creatures. Through them and with them we praise you and ask that you continue to pour out your Spirit upon the universe, and in it to show forth your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord</p> |

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| <p>Thursday</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>Canticle of Creation</p> <p>1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>2 Bless the Lord you heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: bless the Lord all you his hosts; bless the Lord you waters above the heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>4 Bless the Lord sun and moon: bless the Lord you stars of heaven; bless the Lord all rain and dew: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>5 Bless the Lord all winds that blow: bless the Lord you fire and heat; bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>6 Bless the Lord dews and falling snows: bless the Lord you nights and days; bless the Lord light and darkness: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>7 Bless the Lord frost and cold: bless the Lord you ice and snow; bless the Lord lightnings and clouds: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>8 O let the earth bless the Lord: bless the Lord you mountains and hills; bless the Lord all that grows in the ground: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>9 Bless the Lord you springs: bless the Lord you seas and rivers; bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>10 Bless the Lord all birds of the air: bless the Lord you beasts and cattle; bless the Lord all people on earth: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>11 O people of God bless the Lord: bless the Lord you priests of the Lord; bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>12 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart; bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> |
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| <p>Friday</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>Schnabelewopski</p> <p>Music does not exist without air! And this is not only true for wind instruments like trumpets or flutes – No, not even sounds nor words would be audible; not even the big bang.</p> <p>I am sure you'll want to know now what any of this has to do with Mr. Schnabelewopski. The "Memoires of Mr. Schnabelewopski" is a story by Heinrich Heine from the year 1831. It was read by the famous musician Richard Wagner, who was deeply impressed. The story is about a Dutch captain who insulted God. As punishment, he is unable to find a harbour and has to again and again cross the stormy sea. Only a faithful lover could lift his curse.</p> <p>Richard Wagner was in debt. His creditors were demanding their money back, but he was not earning enough to pay them. He found himself in such a precarious situation that he fled to England with his wife Minna. It was the year 1839 and airplanes did not exist yet. So, they travelled by ship, which was not always easy depending on weather conditions. And the inevitable happened: The ship was hit by a powerful storm and poor Mr and Mrs Wagner got terribly sea sick. Green-faced, Richard Wagner remembered the story of Schnabelewopski by Heinrich Heine. Despite his seasickness and due to his being an excellent musician, he imagined the thunder as kettledrums and wind as violins. His art helped him to overcome the terrible situation. And this is how his opera "<i>The Flying Dutchman</i>" was born with tremendous lightning, wind and thunderstorms. Without weather and climate it would unfortunately be: NOTHING! And since we could not possibly want this, we should have the utmost respect for our fragile atmosphere.</p> <p>https://cop23.unfccc.int/schnabelewopski</p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>23</p> | <div data-bbox="812 1323 1136 1617" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>"The aloneness and stillness of the morning is like a greenhouse in which you can gently take root, preparing yourself for the winds of the day."</p> <p><small>© 2011</small></p> |

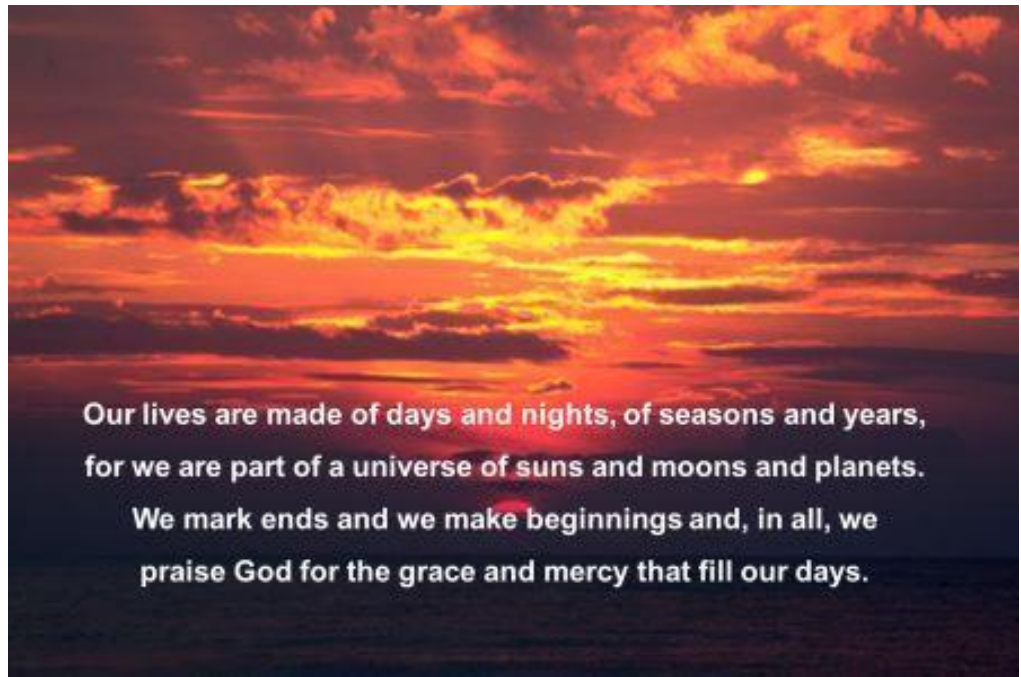


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| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Saving God, our time of waiting is nearly over. Fill our hearts and minds with love for your earth, that we may work diligently to reverse global warming, for the salvation of all your creatures. Save us from the desecration of our air, land and water. May the whole universe continuously praise your saving grace forever.</p> |
| <p>Monday</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>Nativity of Our Lord</p> <p>Lord of the cosmos, you set the star of Bethlehem in the sky to guide us to the infant saviour, Jesus Christ. Now please guide the nations to care for the heavens through peaceable communication and cooperative exploration. May we rid your universe of space debris, spy satellites and military weapons.</p> <p><i>Generous God, you have bestowed on us grace upon grace through our Saviour Jesus Christ. We have been created to live in mutual interdependence with all creatures on your beloved earth. Show us how to live sustainably so that all being are able to live with sufficiency.</i></p>  |
| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>“To garden, you open your personal space to admit a few, a great many, or thousands of plants which exude charm, pleasure, beauty, oxygen, conversation, friendship, confidence, and other rewards should you succeed in meeting their basic needs.”</p> <p>Tom Clothier</p> |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>27</p> |  <p>BrainyQuote</p> |

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| <p>Thursday</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>May God the Father who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide us for all we need for life in its fullness.</p> <p>May God the Son, who through his death, brought us new life enable us to treasure the earth.</p> <p>May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, renew the face of the earth. Amen.</p> |
| <p>Friday</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>Be Still and Feel the Presence</p> <p>1. Be still and feel the presence of God, The presence pulsing, pulsing through Earth, Be still and feel the pulse of God.</p> <p>2. Be still and hear the Spirit of God, The Spirit breathing, breathing through Earth, Be still and hear the breath of God.</p> <p>3. Be still, behold the glory of God, The glory filling, filling this Earth. Be still, behold the face of God.</p> <p>Words: C Norman Habel 2004 Melody: Be Still and Know that I am God</p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>Psalms 104:1-9</p> <p>¹ Praise the LORD, my soul. LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendour and majesty.</p> <p>² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent</p> <p>³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.</p> <p>⁴ He makes winds his messengers,^[a] flames of fire his servants.</p> <p>⁵ He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.</p> <p>⁶ You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.</p> <p>⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;</p> <p>⁸ they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.</p> <p>⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.</p> |

Sunday

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