
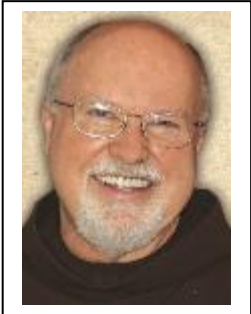




JAEI

October 2019 Environmental Prayer Diary

(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>This day, Father, may my eyes be opened to see the beauty in all that is ordinary - yet special - around me. May the glory of all that you have made remind me of your presence and lead me closer to you.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>2</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>A Different Worldview</p> <p>Before we begin to outline Franciscan alternative orthodoxy, it is helpful to look at the Franciscan worldview, which grew out of the historical and cultural context in which St. Francis lived. Today's meditation will be a little longer to give a full background.</p> <p>Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, in the year 1181. He died in 1226. It was a time of great social and economic change and much violence between Italian city-states. Before and during his life, Europe and the Muslim world were involved in four Crusades, and there were more to come. Christians were fighting Muslims; Muslims had overtaken what Christians considered their holy places in Jerusalem; and the Christians of the West were fighting the Eastern Orthodox Christians. Added to that, Assisi itself was in an ongoing war with Perugia, a little city to the west. In the year 1202, Francis was taken prisoner in a battle against Perugia. In 1204, he escaped from prison. He emerged dazed, disillusioned, and deeply hoping for <i>something more, something different</i> than all the terrible violence that had destroyed his youth. His world was obsessed with war, with security, with self-protection, and with fear of the outsider. (Does this sound familiar?) Everyone in Assisi was armed; revenge, scapegoating, cruelty, torture, and aggression</p> 

against enemies were rampant and even socially sanctioned and idealized, much as they are today.

Francis seemed to realize that there was an intrinsic connection between violence and possessions, power, and prestige. So he rejected all of them. His father was among the first generation of the new propertied business class. Francis recognized that his father's obsession with money and property had destroyed his father's soul, and so he set out on a very different path. Francis concluded that the only way out of such a world was to live a life of voluntary poverty or "non-possession." He refused to be part of the moneyed class because he knew that once you owned something, you'd have to protect it, and for some reason, you would inevitably try to get more of it. Francis said, "Look, Brothers, if we have any possessions, we will need arms to protect them. . . . Therefore, we do not want to possess anything in this world."

Francis felt that in order to find a way out, he had to live in close proximity and even solidarity with the excluded ones in his society. He literally changed sides. He had been born among the upper class in Upper Assisi. In the lower part of town lived the lower class. Francis not only moved to the other side of town, but he actually moved to the plain below Assisi where there was a leper colony. The word "leper" did not always refer to the contagious disease. Rather, the lepers in both Jesus' and Francis' times represented the excluded ones, the ones whom society had decided were unacceptable, unworthy, or unclean for a number of reasons. Francis told us to identify not with the upper class and the climb toward success, power, and money, but to go to where Jesus went—to where there was pain, to the excluded ones. We were to find our place not in climbing but in descending, not at the top but at the bottom, not among the insiders but with the outsider. What an upside down world!

Francis, seeing the beginnings of the propertied leisure class, told us to work for our pay; and if work was not available, we were to humbly beg, just as the Buddha advised his monks. Francis recognized that his society was becoming a structured system of protected and unequal social relationships. He knew the violence, mistrust, ambition, and pride which that worldview would engender. So he insisted on what he called equal power relationships in religious communities. He rejected all titles like *Superior* or *Abbot*. Francis did not want anyone to act as if he was higher than anyone else. Even those who led the community were to be called friars or brothers, and they only held the office for a short term and then returned to the equality of brotherhood. No one should stay at the top for very long; and when they were there, they were to be servant leaders or "guardians" of the mission and message of the friars.



In Francis we see the emergence of a very different worldview, a worldview that is not based on climbing, achieving, possessing, performing, or any idealization of order, but a life that enjoys and finds deep satisfaction on the level of naked *being itself*—much more than doing or having. He learned this from Jesus. It seems to me the Franciscan worldview is now desperately important if the 7.4 billion of us are going to exist happily together on this one limited planet. Voluntary simplicity is now essential for social survival. Francis warned us where we were headed eight hundred years ago.

Gateway to Silence:

Love with your whole heart, soul, mind, and body.

From **Richard Rohr's** *daily meditations*



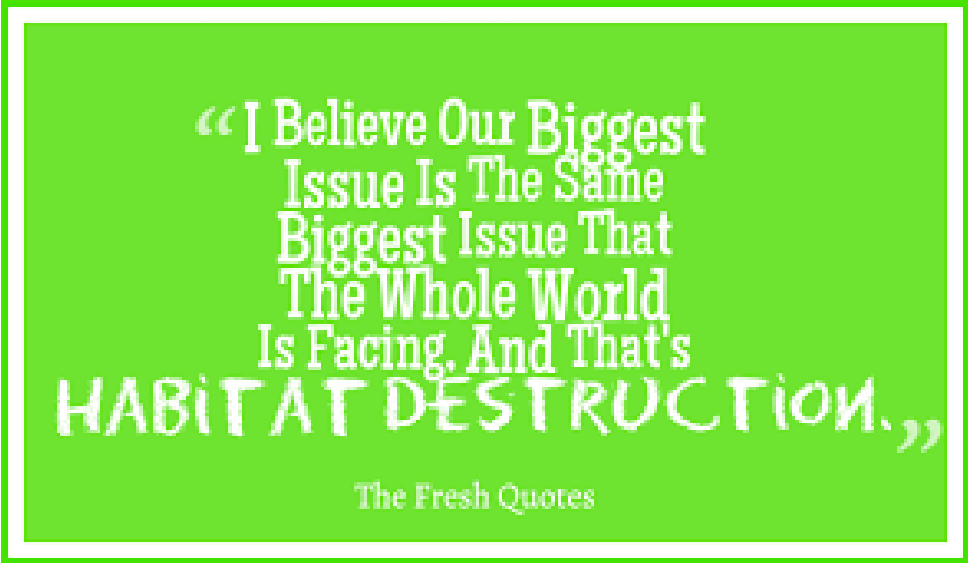
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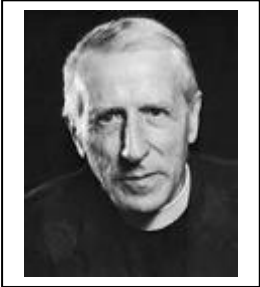

<p>Friday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Feast of St Francis of Assisi</p> <p>The story of St. Francis is the story of a man who had all the material possessions he could ever dream of. His family ensured that he received the best education and he found himself in the company of the elite of his day. Francis only really found himself once he discovered his connection to God and not to things. This connection made Him see himself as connected to those who suffer, to the point that Francis lived in a leper colony in order to be closer to the people of God. Francis also spoke of the elements of nature as being connected to him, calling them Brother Sun and Sister Moon. St. Francis is remembered as the patron saint of the environment, but his true legacy is in showing us the importance of being connected and that this leads us to seeking for God in everything. How can we find God in the people and nature around us? Can we see ourselves as connected to creation and connected to all people? Can we see God in others? And once we do, how does that make us live differently?</p> <p><i>Taken from "Season of Creation year C (2019)</i></p> <p>World Animal Day is a <i>day</i> of action recognised <i>worldwide</i> for <i>animal</i> rights as well as welfare. It is celebrated on 4 October, Francis of Assisi feast <i>day</i>, the <i>animals'</i> patron saint. The mission of this <i>day</i> is raising the status of <i>animals</i> to improve welfare standards <i>worldwide</i>.</p> <p>Prayer for Animals</p> <p>Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated; for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put death.</p> <p>We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.</p> <p>Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful.</p> <p>Albert Schweitzer</p> 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>World Teachers' Day</p> <p><i>World Teachers' Day</i> celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in, and contribute to, their local community and global society. Our environment will depend on these fertile minds.</p> <p>A Prayer for World Teachers' Day</p> <p>Loving God, You came among us as a teacher, healer and saviour. On this World Teacher's Day, bless your teachers Help them become even more joyful disciples and profound echoes of your wisdom, Bless our teachers with the gifts of Your truth, beauty and goodness. Bless them with integrity, so that they bring Your words to life. Bless them with courage and perseverance to walk the paths You have laid out. We pray in the name of Jesus who knows all too well the challenges and joys of being a teacher, Amen</p> 

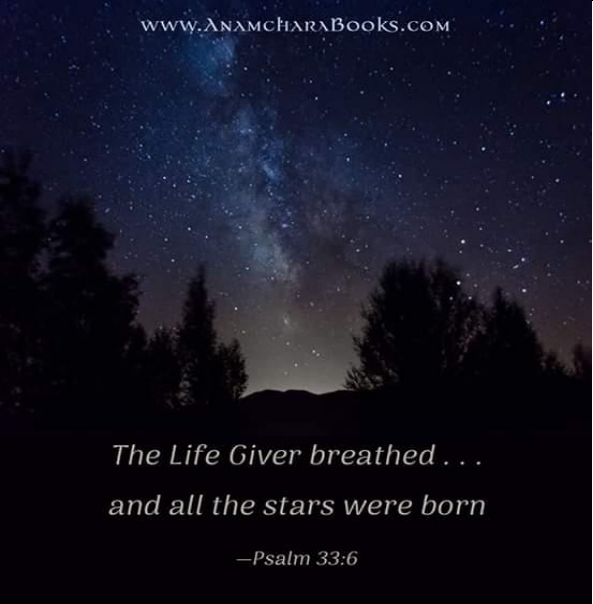
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Lord God: You alone are holy, You who work wonders! You are strong, You are great, You are the Most High, You are the almighty King, You, holy Father, King of heaven and earth. Lord God: You are Three and You are One, You are goodness, all goodness, You are the highest Good, Lord God, living and true. You are love and charity, You are wisdom, You are humility, You are patience, You are beauty, You are sweetness, You are safety, You are rest, You are joy, You are our hope and our delight. You are justice, You are moderation You are all our wealth and riches overflowing. You are beauty, You are gentleness, You are our shelter, our guard and our defender, You are strength, You are refreshment, You are our hope. You are our faith. You are our love, You are our complete consolation, You are our life everlasting, Great and wonderful Lord, All powerful God, merciful Saviour!</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>World Habitat Day</p> <p>The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October of every year as <i>World Habitat Day</i>, the purpose of which is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.</p> <p>Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> <p>Although substantial progress has been made in reducing the proportion of the global urban population living in slums, more than 1 billion people continue to live in such situations. Urgent action is needed to reverse the current situation, which sees the vast majority of urban residents breathing poor-quality air and having limited access to transport and open public spaces. With the areas occupied by cities growing faster than their populations, there are profound repercussions for sustainability. Here in South Africa, we see this every day - fuelling violence, hatred and fear.</p> <p><i>Fervently pray that more will be done to address this Goal.</i></p> <div data-bbox="1123 1245 1466 1451" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1197 1637 1428 1850" data-label="Image"> </div>


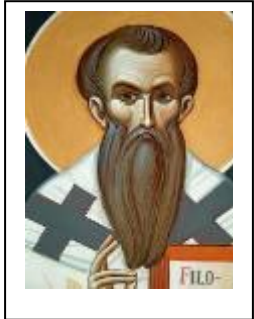
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>National Marine Week</p> <p>National Marine Week is celebrated every year during the second week of October. Its purpose is to create awareness on the marine and coastal environment, the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of these resources, for the benefit of all both present and future generations.</p> <p>Interestingly, the ocean maintains life on earth. It regulates earth's temperature and weather. More than a third of the world population lives in coastal areas and over a billion people worldwide depend on fish as a source of protein. The ocean regulates other essential services to a viable world, like the quality of water and the fixation of carbon dioxide. We who live inland of the oceans are too, directly or indirectly, dependant on the services of the ocean for food, survival and general well-being.</p> <p>It is therefore our responsibility to respect and treasure our oceans in our everyday lives. Not littering and only eating fish from sustainable sources can go far in addressing our impact on our Oceans.</p> <p>Download the SASSI (South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative Pocket Guide)</p> <p>Prayer for our Oceans</p> <p>God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans and to empathize with the groaning of creation. Teach us to know the presence of God in the tides and currents of the seven seas. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of the Wisdom of God, the creative force that designs and governs all creation.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>National WeedBuster Week</p> <p>South Africa celebrates WeedBuster week from 7-13 October. The week aims to raise awareness on the 559 plants and animals that needs to be regulated and controlled in the country.</p> <p>Invasive species cause billions of Rands worth of damage to South Africa's economy each year. Invasive alien plants (IAPs) pose a direct threat not only to biodiversity, but also to water security, the ecological functioning of natural systems and the productive use of land.</p>

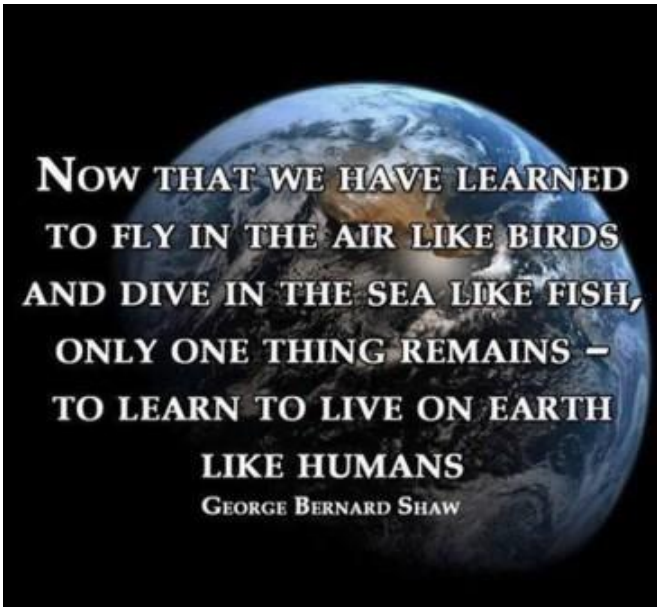




		<p>However, another threat in the form of a <i>minute</i> beetle is threatening our biodiversity right now! The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) which was first detected in 2017 in the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Gardens, is native to Southeast Asia. This beetle has a symbiotic relationship with the fungus (<i>Fusarium Euwallaceae</i>) which serves as a food source for the adults and their larvae.</p> <p>The beetles can attack a wide range of living exotic and indigenous trees. In susceptible trees the fungus the beetle carries slowly kills the tree. First, the tree's vascular system begins to fail, leaves begin to thin on the ends of the branches, eventually turning brown, leading to the branch and eventually the tree dying.</p> <p>This beetle has the potential to drastically change our urban areas and natural systems. The disappearance of trees could affect birds, insects and browsers and change the face of Africa. The potential for devastation of food bearing trees could impact negatively on the economy and the provision of jobs in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Information as to identification and treatment of infestation. Information is also available on the JAEI website</p> <p>As a custodian of God's Creation, inspect the trees in your garden/s and spread this information far and wide.</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>"The universe is not a tragic expression of meaningless chaos, but a marvellous display of an orderly cosmos."</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>11</p>		

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“Do not forget that the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things...as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value.”</p> <p>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>International Day for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>Disasters induced by natural and technological hazards affect millions of people every year worldwide, but much of their impact can be reduced through pro-active measures and planning. The International Day for Disaster Reduction, held annually in October, celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters.</p>  <p>UNESCO is engaged in the conceptual shift in thinking away from post-disaster reaction and towards pre-disaster action, and helps countries build their capacities in managing disaster and climate risk.</p> <p>South Africa is not immune to Natural Disasters. During the past year, Cyclones Idai and Kenneth devastated peoples lives in Mocambique and yet crippling droughts still ravage large areas of South Africa, negatively affecting food security and water supplies are also under enormous pressure. Wildfires are an ever present danger because of the dry conditions in many areas. As a result, our environment too, is under threat.</p> <p>How are we responding to the natural disasters affecting our Country? Do we conserve our water and energy resources? Do we reach out to those (people and the environment) affected by these events? What are we personally doing to curb Climate Change? Prayerfully consider your responsibilities in this regard.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Luke 17:5-10 (<i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>We are called to act for the renewal of Creation</p> <p>⁵ The apostles came up and said to the Master, “Give us more faith.”</p> <p>⁶ But the Master said, “You don’t need <i>more</i> faith. There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, ‘Go jump in the lake,’ and it would do it.</p> <p>⁷⁻¹⁰ “Suppose one of you has a servant who comes in from ploughing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, ‘Sit down and eat’? Wouldn’t you be more likely to say, ‘Prepare dinner; change your clothes and wait table for me until I’ve finished my coffee; then go to the kitchen and have your supper’? Does the servant get special thanks for doing what’s expected of him? It’s the same with you. When you’ve done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, ‘The work is done. What we were told to do, we did.’”</p>

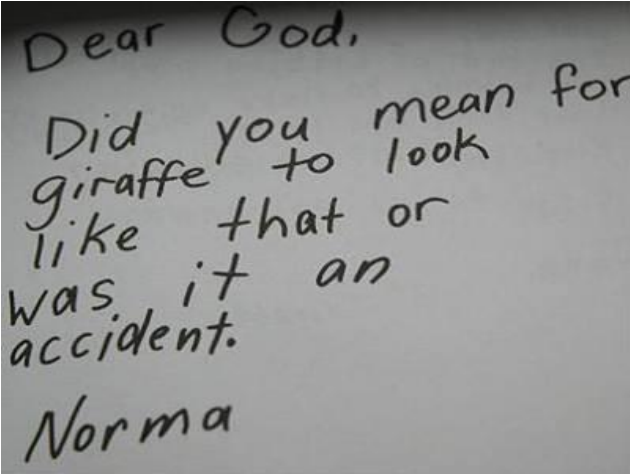
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>15</p>	 <p>www.ANAMCHARABooks.COM</p> <p><i>The Life Giver breathed . . . and all the stars were born</i></p> <p>—Psalm 33:6</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>World Food Day</p> <p>World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. Held annually on 16th October, people from around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime.</p> <p>It is time to rethink how we grow, share and consume our food. If done right, agriculture, forestry and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centred rural development and protecting the environment.</p> <p>Right now, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. Climate change is putting even more pressure on the resources we depend on, increasing risks associated with disasters, such as droughts and floods. Many rural women and men can no longer make ends meet on their land, forcing them to migrate to cities in search of opportunities. Poor food security is also causing millions of children to be stunted, or too short for the ages, due to severe malnutrition.</p> <p>A profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed if we are to nourish the 815 million people who are hungry today and the additional 2 billion people expected to be undernourished by 2050. Investments in agriculture are crucial to increasing the capacity for agricultural productivity and sustainable food production systems are necessary to help alleviate the perils of hunger</p> <p><i>Organise a collection of non-perishable food at your Parish or in your Community and donate to a needy cause.</i></p> <div data-bbox="1094 757 1417 1059" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1062 1339 1453 1809" data-label="Image"> </div>

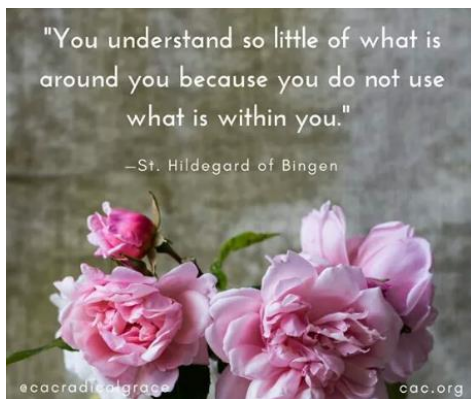
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</p> <p>SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>Despite the considerable progress in reducing extreme poverty, a global target of ending extreme poverty by 2030 is unlikely to be met. Without significant shifts in policy, about 480 million people - some 6 percent of the world - will remain in extreme poverty in 2030, the majority in poor African countries which are lagging behind. For the target to be met, much more investment, particularly in building human capital, to help promote the inclusive growth will be needed.</p> <p>Poverty is a concept intrinsically linked to welfare – and there are many ways in which one can try to measure welfare.</p> <p>Facts and Figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 700 million people, or 10% of the world population, still live in extreme poverty. Surviving on less than US\$1.90 a day. • Having a job does not guarantee a decent living. In fact, 8 per cent of employed workers and their families worldwide lived in extreme poverty in 2018. • Globally, there are 122 women aged 25 to 34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group. • The majority of people living on less than \$1.90 a day live in sub-Saharan Africa. • High poverty rates are often found in small, fragile and conflict-affected countries. • Poverty affects children disproportionately. One out of five children live in extreme poverty. • As of 2018, 55% of the world's population have no access to social protection. • In 2018, only 41% of women giving birth received maternity cash benefits. <p>Pray for World Leaders (especially our own Leaders) to be diligent and committed in realising this Goal</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>“What does the Spirit do? His works are ineffable in majesty, and innumerable in quantity. How can we even ponder what extends beyond the ages? What did He do before creation began? How great are the graces He showered on creation? What power will He wield in the age to come? He existed; He pre-existed; He co-existed with the Father and the Son before the ages. Even if you can imagine anything beyond the ages, you will discover that the Spirit is even further before.”</p> <p>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4th century)</p>	

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>The Earth is the Lord's <i>Tune: Immortal, invisible, God only wise</i></p> <p>“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” Creation reminds us, O God, of your love. By grace we are learning, as year leads to year, We are called to be stewards, your caretakers here.</p> <p>Your rainforests nurture the world that we share. Your wetlands give animals shelter and care. Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea. You’ve shown us, in love, what your good world can be.</p> <p>Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth. We fail to remember its beauty and worth. We take from creation much more than we need, We threaten your world through indifference and greed.</p> <p>May we be good stewards of all that you give, Protecting creation wherever we live. May we be a Church that renews and restores And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.</p> <p>Carolyn Winfrey Gillette https://seasonofcreation.com/creation-songs/</p> 

<p>Monday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>#ClimateStrike</p> <p>A little over a month ago, on Friday, 20th September, people (especially young people) across South Africa, gathered to stand in union with the international climate change protests - the largest climate mobilisation ever - which comes ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit. The aim of the protest was to get the attention of global leaders and push them to take urgent action. Our own government has been complacent in this regard as well.</p> <p>In Cape Town, Archbishop Thabo said <i>“Climate Change is not an environmental problem – it is a human rights issue. It is the human rights issue of our time. As a parent I am afraid for the future of my children. We are stealing their future from them and leaving them a bleak and barren world. But today you give me hope – the oceans are rising, but so are the young people.”</i></p>  <p><i>Archbishop Thabo makes his concerns heard and the #ClimateStrike in Cape Town</i></p> <p>The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has stated that climate change will be ‘a central part’ of conversations the Lambeth Conference in 2020. He gave a compelling message about the importance of the Church responding to climate change in a goodwill message video shared with delegates attending the MOANA Water of Life conference in Lincoln during August of 2019</p> <p>So many people are still in vehement denial that Climate Change is the crisis it is and that it is already making its cruel mark and taking victims.</p> <p>The call is clear – Climate Change is a reality and EVERYONE needs to step up to address this challenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayerfully consider your actions – both positive and negative – regarding this crisis, and how you will change your lifestyle to address this issue. • Continue to pray fervently over this very urgent and pressing issue which has reached crisis proportions. • Give thanks for young leaders like Greta Thunberg who are stepping out to make their voices heard. • Prayer for the upcoming Climate Action meetings, especially COP25 in December
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>“Landscapes of great wonder and beauty lie under our feet and all around us. They are discovered in tunnels in the ground, the heart of flowers, the hollows of trees, fresh-water ponds, seaweed jungles between tides, and even drops of water. Life in these hidden worlds is more startling in reality than anything we can imagine. How could this earth of ours, which is only a speck in the heavens, have so much variety of life, so many curious and exciting creatures?”</p> <p>Walt Disney</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>“Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”</p> <p>Song of Solomon 2:12</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Help us, Lord Jesus, to be ready to get our hands dirty in your service. Amen.</p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Africa’s population is projected to increase by a factor of 5 to 7 by 2100 due to slow progress in reducing fertility rates as a result of insufficient investment in family planning, education and women’s empowerment. An IPBS report points out that the aims of halting land degradation, resource depletion and biodiversity loss are not realistic without dedicated, well-funded and large-scale family planning rolled out across the African continent. “There has never been a more important time to re-invigorate the need for long-term, culturally-sensitive and meaningful family planning measures if many African nations are to have any hope of stemming the decline of their biodiversity.”</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider this problem</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Psalm 24</p> <p>¹ The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;</p> <p>² for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.</p> <p>³ Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?</p> <p>⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.</p> <p>⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.</p> <p>⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.^{[b][c]}</p> <p>⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.</p> <p>⁸ Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.</p> <p>⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.</p> <p>¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Collect</p> <p>Creator God Your eternal power is seen in the whole web of life Your voice is heard in the beauty of Creation Rooted in your love may we worship you will all your creatures And work to protect our common home Through Jesus Christ our Lord</p> <p>Amen</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>28</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Collect Creator God you have created the community of life May we give thanks for the holiness and wonder of all that you have created and fulfil your call on our lives to be keepers and healers of your Earth through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Gracious Lord, Give us courage, to stand up and be counted, To stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. To stand up for ourselves when we need to. Let us fear nothing more than we fear you. Let us love nothing more than we love you Let us have no other God before you., whether nation or party or state or church. Let us seek no other peace but the peace that is yours, and make us its instruments, opening our eyes and ears and hearts, So that we shall know always what work of peace we may do for you.</p> <p>Alan Paton</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Deep Peace of the quiet earth to you Deep peace of the still air to you Deep peace of the forgiving heart to you Deep peace of the Son of Peace vii</p>



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