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August 2022 Environmental Prayer Diary

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





<p>Monday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month.</p> <p>Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now.</p> <p><i>(Prayer from Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief)</i> https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>“We are all together in this single living ecosystem called planet earth. As we learn how we fit into the greater scheme of things, and begin to understand how the system works, we can plan ahead, we can use the resources responsibly, to show some respect for this inheritance that goes back 4.6 billion years.”</p> <p><i>Sylvia Earle</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<div data-bbox="769 1626 1241 2047" data-label="Image"> </div>





<p>Thursday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Read Matthew 5: 38-48</p> <p><i>“...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”</i></p> <p>This reading calls us to consider how to treat those our enemies. The teachings prompt us to respect and love even those who have wronged us. To go beyond what is asked of us, and to give more of ourselves if we can. To go two miles if we are asked to walk one.</p> <p>The message is simple, but the process is never easy. There is no situation more relevant to the difficult process of ‘going the extra mile’, and to showing our love for others, than the climate crisis, in which we are called to stand in solidarity with those we don’t know: vulnerable people across the globe, people we’ve never met, people yet to be born!</p> <p>It is easy to ask, “what does climate change have to do with me?” However, the teaching in Matthew’s Gospel challenges us to think differently.</p> <p>We are called to share in the pain felt by the ‘stranger’ because they are our distant but global neighbours, they will inherit this world we built.</p> <p>Let us take this opportunity to love as Jesus loved and come together to pray and act for our common home.</p> <p>Father of all Creation, grant us strength to protect our neighbours as part of our global family. Guide our actions as we work to love our brothers and sisters around the world today and always. Amen.</p> <p><i>This reflection and prayer were written by Elizabeth Soller, a CAFOD volunteer.</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>God speaks to us in bird and song</p> <p>God speaks to us in bird and song, in winds that drift the clouds along, above the din and toil of wrong, a melody of love.</p> <p>God speaks to us in far and near, in peace of home and friends most dear, from faded past and present clear, a melody of love.</p> <p>God speaks to us in darkest night, by quiet ways through mornings bright, when shadows fall with evening light, a melody of love.</p> <p>O Voice divine, speak unto me, beyond the earth, beyond the sea, and let me echo joyfully a melody of love.</p> <p>Joseph Johnson <i>Source: Voices Together #539</i></p> 

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Prayer for World Peace</p> <p>We pray to the great Spiritual Power in which we live and move and have our being. We pray that we may at all times keep our minds open to new ideas and shun dogma; that we may grow in our understanding of the nature of all living beings and our connectedness with the natural world; that we may become ever more filled with generosity of spirit and true compassion and love for all life; that we may strive to heal the hurts that we have inflicted on nature and control our greed for material things, knowing that our actions are harming our natural world and the future of our children; that we may value each and every human being for who he is, for who she is, reaching to the spirit that is within, knowing the power of each individual to change the world.</p> <p>We pray for social justice, for the alleviation of the crippling poverty that condemns millions of people around the world to lives of misery - hungry, sick, and utterly without hope. We pray for the children who are starving, who are condemned to homelessness, slave labour, and prostitution, and especially for those forced to fight, to kill and torture even members of their own family.</p> <p>We pray for the victims of violence and war, for those wounded in body and for those wounded in mind. We pray for the multitudes of refugees, forced from their homes to alien places through war or through the utter destruction of their environment.</p> <p>We pray for an end to cruelty, whether to humans or other animals, for an end to bullying, and torture in all its forms.</p> <p>We pray that we may learn the peace that comes with forgiving and the strength we gain in loving; that we may learn to take nothing for granted in this life; that we may learn to see and understand with our hearts; that we may learn to rejoice in our being.</p> <p>We pray for these things with humility; We pray because of the hope that is within us, and because of a faith in the ultimate triumph of the human spirit; We pray because of our love for Creation, and because of our trust in God. We pray, above all, for peace throughout the world.</p> <p><i>Dr. Jane Goodall</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Creator God We join with all creation to praise you and thank you for all that you have made. We praise you for your beauty which is woven into the very fabric of this world. We thank you for your breath of life which creates and sustains all life. We worship you for your love which holds us all together.</p> <p><i>From Ann Scott's prayer</i> on https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/</p>

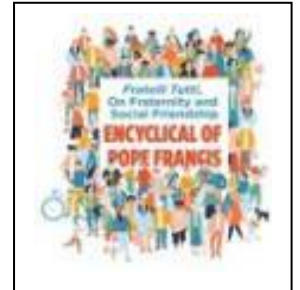
<p>Monday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“Only if we understand we can care. Only if we care, we will help. Only if we help, we shall be saved.”</p> <p>Jane Goodall</p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Women’s Day</p> <p>A prayer for Women’s Day</p> <p>Lord, make me an instrument of peace: Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into ploughshares. Where there is hatred, let me sow love: We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities. Help us to see and to face the discrimination against women in all the many forms it may take.</p> <p>Where there is injury, pardon: Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.</p> <p>Where there is division, unity: Forgive all women and men who let differences breed hate and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.</p> <p>Where there is darkness, light; where there is untruth, truth: Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, and loneliness. May we stand with them in light to acknowledge their suffering and strive to remove the burdens of shame or embarrassment.</p> <p>Where there is doubt, true faith: We pray for all women who live in fear of their husbands, fathers, and forces that control their lives. Help them to be empowered to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.</p> <p>Where there is despair, hope: We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope.</p> <p>Where there is sadness, new joy: Help us to see the strength and goodness in all women and men. Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people.</p> <p>Amen</p> <p>Source: www.godpsacelight.com</p> 

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>World Lion Day</p> <p>An African lion’s life is all about napping, and resting with short bursts of intense activity, play, clawing at trees, followed by more sleeping that can total up to 21 hours a day!</p> <p>Lions are one of the most loved animals in the world and are a significant tourism drawcard, and tourism is a significant employer.</p> <p>Unfortunately, with the illegal wildlife trade booming, poachers lurking in the shadows, poor regulation of legal trade, disease (tuberculosis and feline immunodeficiency virus), habitat loss and climate change - lions are disappearing at an alarming rate. <i>At the current rate of habitat loss and poaching, African lions could be completely extinct by 2050.</i></p> <p>Lions are currently listed as “vulnerable” on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. In some parts of Africa, lions are classified as “critically endangered” because lion populations are still plummeting at an unprecedented rate. “Lion farming” and canned hunting were outlawed in South Africa in 2021, but sadly the black-market trade in lions and lion bones continues.</p> <p>Without lions, herbivores would increase in population and overgraze on the natural foliage depleting the health of their ecosystem.</p> <p>Can we afford to lose such an iconic animal?</p> <p><i>Archbishop Desmond Tutu: Prayer for Lions</i></p> <p>God, Creator of all there is; Human beings, wildlife, plant life Everything in your universe is so utterly beautiful And you have said: “Be fruitful and multiply”. We pray for predators who go around destroying your creation, Beautiful animals Wildlife is at risk because of this predators. We pray that we may know that we were all created by You for abundance of life, and that includes wildlife particularly at this time We consider the risk faced by wild white lions. We thank you for those who make public this horrendous risk and pray that they will succeed in saving all of Your wildlife. But especially, in this instance, white lions. We pray these prayers in the name of Your glorious Son, Amen</p> <p><i>(A global prayer by Archbishop Tutu for the plight of the world’s lions, in particular South Africa’s critically endangered White Lions, whose rights to survival should be upheld in their natural habitat.)</i></p>
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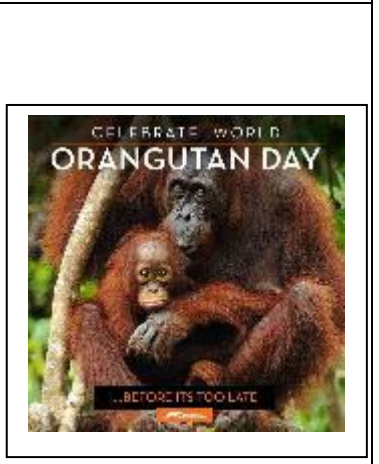


<p>Thursday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>There is so much going on in my mind lately about all that is going on in our country and world. This illustration by Andy Stanley really spoke to me this morning. He asked the question... what do you notice about Daniel in this picture? Answer was... he is NOT looking at the lions!! He is looking to his God!! With everything going on in our world today I think too many of us are spending our time looking at the lions instead of looking to our GOD. (Painting by Artist Briton Rivière, Title - Daniel's Answer to the King. 1890)</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“We must do what we conceive to be the right thing and not bother our heads or burden our souls with whether we're going to be successful, because if we don't do the right thing, we'll be doing the wrong thing and we'll just be part of the disease and not part of the cure.”</p> <p>E.F. Schumacher</p> <p>Lord God, strengthen our weak wills and our feeble frames so that we may work tirelessly for the fulfilment of your promise for the redemption of all creation from the bondage of corruption. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.</p> <p>Amen</p> 

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p>Chapter Two The context</p> <p>This parable has to do with an age-old problem. Shortly after its account of the creation of the world and of man, the Bible takes up the issue of human relationships. Cain kills his brother Abel and then hears God ask: “Where is your brother Abel?” (Gen 4:9). His answer is one that we ourselves all too often give: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (ibid.). By the very question he asks, God leaves no room for an appeal to determinism or fatalism as a justification for our own indifference. Instead, he encourages us to create a different culture, in which we resolve our conflicts and care for one another.</p> <p>58. The Book of Job sees our origin in the one Creator as the basis of certain common rights: “Did not he who made me in the womb also make him? And did not the same one fashion us in the womb?” (Job 31:15). Many centuries later, Saint Irenaeus would use the image of a melody to make the same point: “One who seeks the truth should not concentrate on the differences between one note and another, thinking as if each was created separately and apart from the others; instead, he should realize that one and the same person composed the entire melody”.^[54]</p> <p>59. In earlier Jewish traditions, the imperative to love and care for others appears to have been limited to relationships between members of the same nation. The ancient commandment to “love your neighbour as yourself” (Lev 19:18) was usually understood as referring to one’s fellow citizens, yet the boundaries gradually expanded, especially in the Judaism that developed outside of the land of Israel. We encounter the command not to do to others what you would not want them to do to you (cf. Tob 4:15). In the first century before Christ, Rabbi Hillel stated: “This is the entire Torah. Everything else is commentary”.^[55] The desire to imitate God’s own way of acting gradually replaced the tendency to think only of those nearest us: “The compassion of man is for his neighbour, but the compassion of the Lord is for all living beings” (Sir 18:13).</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Dear Father, you have given us matchless gifts in the realm of science and technology. Help us to understand that you alone are the source of all truth and understanding.</p> <p>Let us never be blinded by the lure of the market-place or tempted to put at risk the lives and health of our fellow-humans. Watch over our motives, loving Father, that we may always give prime place to the furtherance of your Kingdom. This we ask in the name of your Son, who died that we might live.</p> <p>Amen</p>





<p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p>	<div data-bbox="711 159 1299 891" data-label="Image"> <p><i>Gratitude Scavenger Hunt</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find something that makes you happy. 2. Something to give someone else to make them smile. 3. Find one thing that you love to smell. 4. Find one thing you enjoy looking at. 5. Find something that's your favorite color. 6. Find something you are thankful for in nature. 7. Find something that you can use to make a gift for someone. 8. Find something that is useful for you. <p>www.simpleacresblog.com</p> </div>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>On the Pulse of Morning</p> <p>A Rock, A River, A Tree Hosts to species long since departed, Marked the mastodon, The dinosaur, who left dried tokens Of their sojourn here On our planet floor, Any broad alarm of their hastening doom Is lost in the gloom of dust and ages.</p> <p>But today, the Rock cries out to us, clearly, forcefully, Come, you may stand upon my Back and face your distant destiny, But seek no haven in my shadow, I will give you no hiding place down here.</p> <p>You, created only a little lower than The angels, have crouched too long in The bruising darkness Have lain too long Facedown in ignorance, Your mouths spilling words Armed for slaughter.</p> <p>The Rock cries out to us today, You may stand upon me, But do not hide your face.</p> <p>Maya Angelou</p>


<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>“We have forgotten how to be good guests, how to walk lightly on the earth as its other creatures do.”</p> <p>Barbara Ward</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>The Throne in Heaven - Revelation 4:1-11</p> <p>4 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.</p> <p>In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:</p> <p>“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”</p> <p>⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:</p> <p>¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>International Orangutan Day</p> <p>With their distinctive red hair, orangutans are the only great ape to live outside of Africa. Feasting on fruit, they spend nearly their entire lives in trees, and are vital for healthy forests.</p> <p>“Orangutans are intelligent, self-aware beings worthy of our respect,” said Ian Redmond, an orangutan expert. “A keystone species, as they feed they prune trees, disperse seeds and fertilise soil with their droppings.”</p>	

		<p>It is surprising to learn that orangutan conservation has a global implication which impacts on each of us. Many of the seeds of trees in the rainforests of southeast Asia rely on orangutan faeces to germinate. These rainforests pump water vapour into the atmosphere forming weather systems that deliver rain thousands of miles away. So, in saving orangutans and their habitat, we save countless other species. Save apes to save forests to save the world!</p> <p>However, wild Orangutans are facing extinction in their home rainforest habitats on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Rainforests on these two islands are being destroyed to grow palm oil trees and with palm oil an ingredient in half of the products in supermarkets we need to check that the products we buy use palm oil from ethically produced sources.</p> <p><i>Are you aware of the palm oil content in the products you use?</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>World Mosquito Day</p> <p>Malaria is a disease transmitted by parasite-bearing female Anopheles mosquitoes that's rife in north-eastern KZN, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. But recent headlines suggest you could you be at risk in urban areas too.</p> <p>The reason for this, is because mosquitoes don't necessarily stay in one place. Like other cases of malaria, taxi malaria – also called Odyssean or airport malaria – is caused by mosquitoes carrying the malaria parasite. However, in these cases, the mosquitoes have unfortunately hitched a ride on a vehicle travelling out of the malaria area. This means you can get sick, even if you haven't been near a zone that would typically put you at risk.”</p> <p>As with any other malaria infection, taxi malaria begins with non-specific symptoms, such as fever, chills, headaches, fatigue and muscle pain. The problem, of course, is that these symptoms present in a range of illnesses and conditions, from COVID-19 to flu. This means few people think of mentioning the possibility of taxi malaria to their healthcare provider and won't be tested for the disease. That's unfortunate, since if diagnosed early, malaria can be treated with oral medication. If untreated, it can progress to become a severe and life-threatening illness.</p> <p>While the risk of taxi malaria is very rare, and therefore doesn't need much in terms of preventative strategies, malaria itself carries a much higher risk if you've been to a malaria area – especially if you haven't taken oral prophylaxis. If you're planning a trip to a malaria area, consult your healthcare provider about the most appropriate regimen for you.</p> <p>Obviously, it's best to avoid getting bitten in the first place and you can take simple preventative measures, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying insect repellent liberally and often • wearing long-sleeved clothes and trousers when outdoors – especially between dawn and dusk • using a fan and mosquito net when you sleep.



		<p>Finally, if you develop non-specific flu-like illness after having visited a malaria area, speak to your healthcare provider – a simple test with a blood sample will confirm the diagnosis.</p> <p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued breakthroughs in research involved with mosquito-borne diseases • For the many people affected by and infected with these diseases • For the necessary funding to be available for combating this problem
Sunday	21	<p>Dear God, You created the world to serve our needs and to lead us to you. Through our own unconsciousness we have lost the beautiful relationship we once had with the rest of creation. Help us to see that by restoring our relationship with you we will also renew our connection with all your creation. Give us the grace to see all animals as gifts from you and to treat them with respect, for they are your creation. We pray for all animals who are suffering as a result of our neglect. May the order you originally established be once again restored to the whole world. Amen</p> <p>Mirabai Starr</p>
Monday	22	<p>Nature as a Mirror of God</p> <p>What some now call creation spirituality, deep salvation, or the holistic Gospel, was voiced long ago by some Eastern fathers, in the spirituality of the ancient Celts, by many of the Rhineland mystics, and surely by Francis of Assisi. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) communicated creation spirituality through music, art, poetry, medicine, gardening, and reflections on nature. She wrote in her famous book, <i>Scivias</i>:</p>  <p>You understand so little of what is around you because you do not use what is within you.</p> <p>This is key to understanding Hildegard and is very similar to Teresa of Ávila's understanding of the soul. Without using the word, she recognized that the human person is a <i>microcosm</i> with a natural affinity for or resonance with its <i>macrocosm</i>, which many call God. Our little world reflects the big world. The key word here is <i>resonance</i>. Contemplative prayer allows your mind to <i>resonate</i> with what is visible and right in front of you. <i>Contemplation is the end of all loneliness because it erases the separateness between the seer and the seen.</i></p> <p>Hildegard spoke often of <i>viriditas</i>, the greening of things from within, similar to what we now call photosynthesis. She already saw that there was a readiness in plants to receive the sun and to transform it into energy and life. She recognized that there is also an inherent connection between the physical</p>

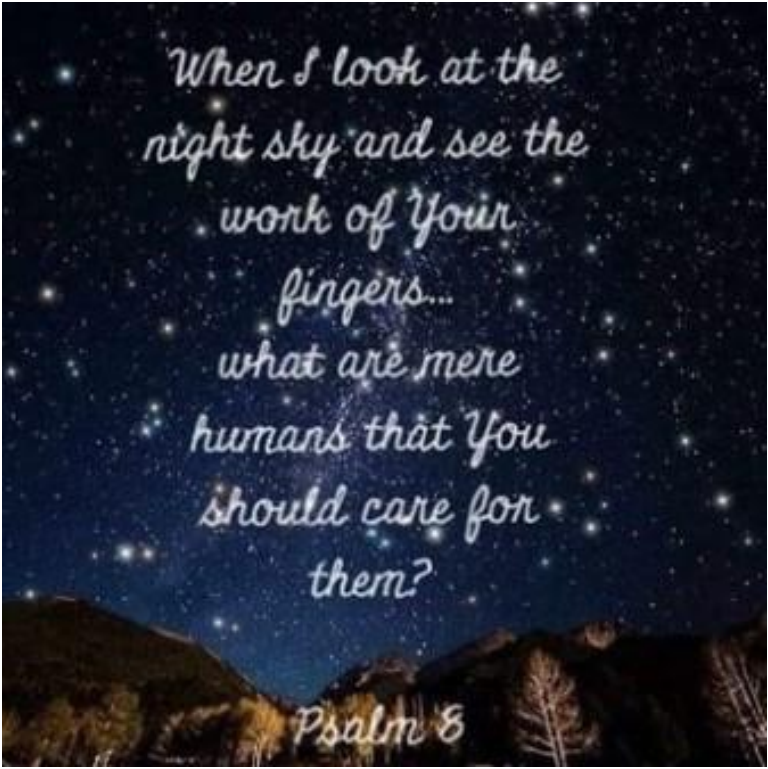

		<p>world and the divine Presence. This connection translates into inner energy that is the soul and seed of everything, an inner voice calling you to “Become who you are; become all that you are.” This is our “life wish” or “whole-making instinct.”</p> <p>Hildegard is a wonderful example of someone who lives safely inside an entire cosmology, a universe where the inner shows itself in the outer, and the outer reflects the inner, where the individual reflects the cosmos, and the cosmos reflects the individual. Hildegard says, “O Holy Spirit, you are the mighty way in which everything that is in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, is penetrated with connectedness, penetrated with relatedness.” It is truly a Trinitarian universe, with all things whirling toward one another from orbits, to gravity, to ecosystems, to sexuality.</p> <p>In another place, Hildegard has God saying:</p> <p>I have created mirrors in which I consider all the wonders of my originality which will never cease.</p> <p>Indeed, for Hildegard nature was a mirror for the soul and a mirror for God. This mirroring affects a complete change in consciousness in how most of us see and experience reality. Later, Bonaventure (1217-1274) wrote: “In the soul’s journey to God we must present to ourselves <i>the whole material world</i> as the first mirror through which we may pass over to the Supreme [Artisan].” The Dominican Meister Eckhart (1260-1327) said the same: “If humankind could have known God without the world, God would never have created the world.”</p> <p>Creation is not a mere scenic backdrop so humans can take over the stage. Creation is in fact a full participant in human transformation, since the outer world is absolutely needed to mirror the true inner world. There are not just two sacraments, or even seven; the whole world is a sacrament!</p> <p>Gateway to Silence: Brother Sun, Sister Moon, help me see God in all things.</p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</i> www.cac.org</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>23</p>	

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Father of Compassion, We thank you for the world that you have made. For Soil and streams, Mountains and music, Flowers and fauna, Laughter and love, Dancing and daisies, Flamingos and food.</p> <p>We thank you that we inhabit this world with non-human worshippers. Elephants and eagles, Kites and kudus. Monkeys and mousebirds. To you be all honour, glory and praise.</p> <p><i>From a prayer by Jon Swales. (Adapted)</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Climate Is Changing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn Winfrey Gillett, 2021 St. David arr. Gwladys y Cymoedd, 1839</p>  <p>1. The cli - mate is chang - ing! Cre - a - tion cries out! 2. We pray for the a - ri - mals here in our midst 3. We thank you for peo - ple who trea - sure the earth, 4. We thank you for lead - ers, cou - ra - geous and brave, 5. You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!</p> <p>Your peo - ple face flood - ing and fire and drought, who can - not de - fend their own right to ex - ist, whose faith has long taught them its beau - ty and worth, who know that the earth is worth fight - ing to save, May we love our neigh - bours— there's work to be done.</p> <p>We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst, We pray for the moun - tains and to - rests and seas We thank you as well for the chil - dren and youth who care a - bout jus - tice and what they should do, May we, by your Spi - rit, do all in our power</p> <p>We pray for the poor, Lord— for they suf - fer first, that bear the harsh foot - print of our hu - man greed, who look to the fu - ture and speak out the truth, who lis - ten to sci - ence and work hard for you, to care for your earth in this cri - ti - cal hour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillett. All rights reserved. Email: carolynwinfrey@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynwinfrey.com</p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>World Wild Dog Day</p> <p>Wild dog populations are under threat – but there is hope for the future. Could African wild dog (painted wolf) populations double by 2050? A theory of change offered in a new report proposes it may be possible to save one of Africa’s most endangered carnivores – through collaboration, recovering former territory and improved funding.</p> <p>These athletic predators have suffered centuries of persecution, and the space available to them is ever-shrinking. Conservationists and scientists from the Painted Wolf Foundation have compiled a comprehensive assessment of the state of painted wolf conservation – from population estimates to conservation strategies – and hypothesise that numbers could double in the best-case scenario</p> <p>Populations of these beautiful charismatic dogs are relatively stable at present, but habitat loss and fragmentation is remains a major threat to them. Wild dogs are also victims of the illegal bushmeat trade, as snares and gin traps intended for antelope are indiscriminate. Outbreaks of diseases such as distemper or rabies, carried by domestic dogs, can wipe out entire packs. Road accidents are also common causes of wild dog mortalities in some areas. Conflict with farmers occurs throughout the wild dog range, even though their reputation as mass livestock killers far exceeds their actual impact.</p> <p>All of the above threats are exacerbated by the fact that wild dogs struggle to persist with high densities of competing predators like lions and spotted hyenas. As most of Africa’s wildlife is now concentrated in protected areas, wild dogs are forced to exist on the periphery of these regions, increasing their chances of encountering anthropogenic threats.</p> <p>Along with procuring enough funding for continued research and action, education is key to protecting painted wolves and improving conservation efforts. This includes changing the image and perception of wild dogs (as vermin, feral dogs).</p> <p><i>Pray for all involved in this critical research and programme management and that funding would be made available for this important work.</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”</p> <p>Margaret Mead</p>



<p>Sunday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Loving God, We thank you for this world which you have created, For its abundant riches, resources and complex ecologies Both those which are useful to us, providing food, clean water, clean air and so much more; And those which are beautiful and inspiring, and which help us connect with You.</p> <p>We have not cared for them well. You have given, and keep giving, so much to us; Your love and grace, and nature's abundance, but also our own free will and the means to use it.</p> <p>We have not used it well. And with that free will comes consequences; consequences which affect others as well as ourselves. Consequences which often fall hardest on the poorest, And hurt not only those who live now, but those who are not yet born and cannot speak out for themselves.</p> <p><i>From Cat Turner's prayer No more hot air Lord</i> https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>The Throne in Heaven - Revelation 4:1-11</p> <p>4 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. ³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. ⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.</p> <p>In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:</p> <p>"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."</p> <p>⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:</p> <p>¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."</p>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>African Traditional Medicine (uMuthi) Day</p> <p>About 80% of Africa's population relies on traditional medicine for their basic health needs. In some cases traditional medicine is the only healthcare service available, accessible and affordable to many people on the continent. In this case the significant contribution of traditional medicine as a major provider of healthcare services in Africa cannot be underestimated.</p>  <p>Medicinal plants remain relevant to human development and welfare, with traditional values among many indigenous communities, but indiscriminate harvesting of medicinal plants in the wild has an impact on sustainability of medicinal plants, which leads to the need for intervention in terms of conservation strategies. One of the key factors that has resulted in the extinction of various plant species is increased human activities especially their indiscriminate over-harvesting. Even though demand is increasing, many medicinal plant species remain uncultivated, although research, discussion and development is being carried out at a few South African Universities.</p> <p>In contemporary South Africa, medicinal plants have become the subject of extensive discussions among conservationists, policymakers, economists, due to their contribution to healthcare and potential as a vehicle for economic development and poverty alleviation. Negotiations regarding the balancing of sustainable harvesting with supply demand is complicated.</p> <p><i>Pray for those involved in negotiations in this delicate matter.</i></p>