


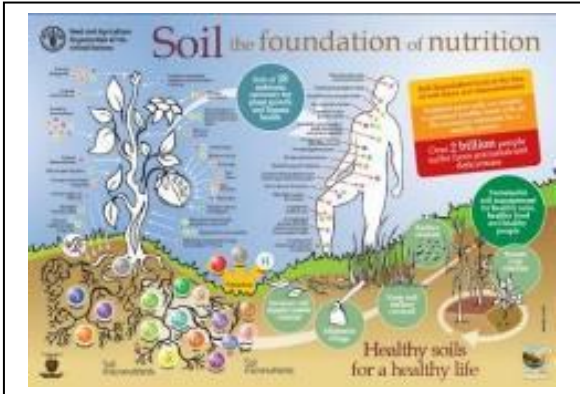


JAEI

December 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>Thursday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Whoever makes a garden has oh so many friends: The glory of the morning, the hush when daylight ends, And rain and wind and sunshine and dew and fertile sod, For he who makes a garden works hand in hand with God.</p> <p>Author Unknown</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>2</p>	<div data-bbox="715 622 1219 954" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Soil is an antidepressant</p> <p>The smell of mycobacterium vacii, a microorganism found in soil, compost and leaf mold, lights up neurotransmitters that release serotonin (a mood-lifting hormone)</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Wildlife Conservation Day (4 December)</p> <p>The aim of World Wildlife Conservation Day is to create awareness about preserving Earth's endangered flora and fauna. The most invasive species on earth are not cane toads or bugweed - it's us humans! Nature's most magnificent creatures are becoming endangered and being pushed to the brink of extinction by the greed of some humans, and this is causing irreparable harm to the wildlife ecosystem. Driven by the demand for illegal animal parts and products on the black market, humans have been hunting, poaching, and slaughtering several wildlife species to the brink of extinction.</p> <div data-bbox="1123 1261 1489 1512" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Human interference in the world's natural ecosystem has been ongoing for centuries. In the modern world, as humans travelled and settled in different parts of the world, they cleared land for farming, cut forests for shipbuilding, and began hunting and trapping for money. Over the years, wildlife hunting and poaching became more common and wildlife populations started to decline across the globe.</p> <p>World Wildlife Conservation Day is not just a day to learn about wildlife and endangered species. It is a day in which we can actually make a difference by pledging to protect and preserve our wildlife.</p>

		<p>Although mankind is responsible for the endangerment and extinction of many species, the fact that good-hearted humans can work together to protect our wildlife is a lesson that everyone needs to learn. Today is the day to do so!</p>
Sunday	4	<p>The Second Week of Advent</p> <p>Dear Lord, Through the darkness, I look for your wisdom. I want my heart to be open to you. But sometimes in these days, it seems that so many things come between us.</p> <p>Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker in my own life, and in the world. Let me pray especially for this difficult world and those who are so in need of an end to violence. My heart begs for this as my Advent prayer today.</p>
Monday	5	<p>International Soil Day</p> <p>2022 Theme: "Soils: Where food begins"</p>  <p>This campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, increasing soil awareness and encouraging societies to improve soil health.</p> <p>Soil nutrient loss is a major soil degradation processes threatening nutrition and is recognized as being among the most important problems at a global level for food security and sustainability all around the globe.</p> <p>Watch video</p> <p>Download this poster</p> 

Tuesday

6

Litany of Thanks for the Gift of Soil

Let us remember that it is the rough the gift of soil that we have life on earth.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

We thank you for the creation of rocks, topsoil, 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.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

We thank you for valleys and mountains, for deserts and forests, We thank you for veld and vleis, open grasslands and coastlines, mountains and riverbeds.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

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 wetlands, river and dams.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

We thank you for soil that allows us to grow our food and upon which we build our homes.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

Help us, Lord, to make wise use of the gift of soil.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

Be with those who work the land, cultivate it, and who grow food for themselves and for us.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

Help us, O Lord, to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, just as soil receives the free gifts of water and wind.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.



Help us O Lord, like the soil, to weather the storms that change us, that turn us into something different that may even displace us.


Thank you, Lord, for the gift of soil.

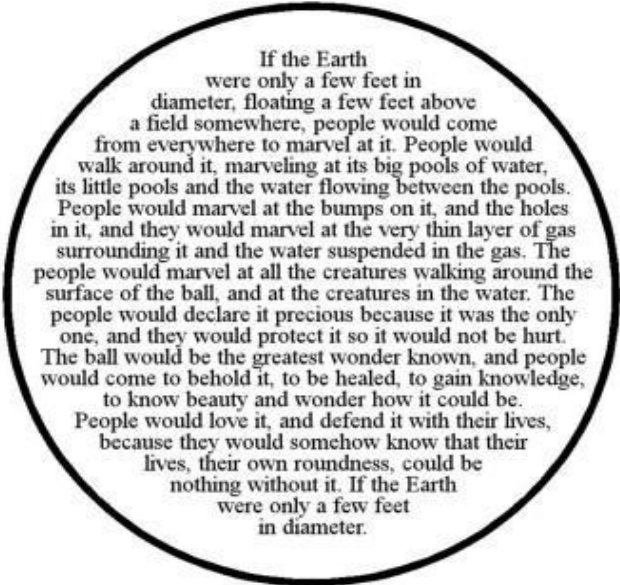
Help us, O Lord, to always stay firmly rooted in You, our foundation and our source. In Christ's name,

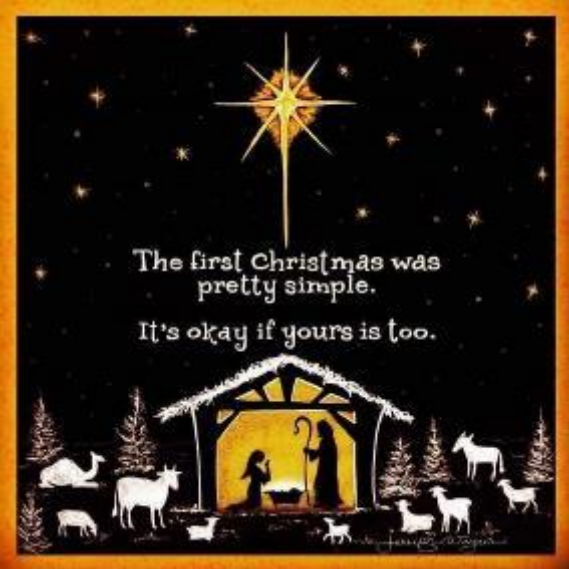
Amen



<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15)</p> <p>7-19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, governments from around the world will come together to agree on a new set of goals to guide global actions through 2040 to protect and restore nature. Much of COP15 will focus on the final content of targets in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>Healthy, biodiverse ecosystems sustain life on Earth by providing air, water and other essential elements. From forests to farmlands to oceans, the planet’s ecosystems are the basis of resources, services and industries. Despite the value nature provides, it is being degraded at catastrophic rates. Nature loss has far-reaching consequences. Damaged ecosystems exacerbate climate change by releasing carbon instead of storing it.</p> <p>This year’s UN Biodiversity Conference is an opportunity to strike a landmark agreement to guide global actions through 2030 to achieve a nature-positive world, one where society halts and reverses the loss of biodiversity. The world needs to take concrete steps to shift our unsustainable consumption and production patterns to ones that allow both people and the planet to thrive.</p> <p><i>(Read: The UN Biodiversity Conference: the road to a bold new agreement for nature)</i></p> <p><i>Pray that a formulated plan will result from this meeting and that global leaders will take this seriously and establish meaningful actions to protect our precious biodiversity.</i></p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“In delivering on biodiversity, we deliver on climate, on pollution, on the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and on the food and energy system transformation. So let us ensure that this COP will be remembered as the moment we finally set our societies and economies on the path to rebuilding the biodiversity upon which we all rely.”</p> <p><i>Inger Andersen</i> <i>UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director</i></p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Prayer for the Soil <i>(hold soil aloft)</i></p> <p>Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens your call to care.</p> <p>We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the mystery of the hidden creatures, the beauty of a flower and majesty of a tree.</p> <p>We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land and soil.</p> <p>In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen</p>	

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>International Mountain Day (11 December)</p> <p>2022 Theme: “Women move mountains”</p>  <p>Women play a key role in environmental protection and social and economic development in mountain areas. They are often the primary managers of mountain resources, guardians of biodiversity, keepers of traditional knowledge, custodians of local culture and experts in traditional medicine.</p> <p>Increasing climate variability, coupled with a lack of investment in mountain agriculture and rural development, has often pushed men to migrate elsewhere in search of alternative livelihoods. Women have therefore taken on many tasks formerly done by men, yet mountain women are often invisible due to a lack of decision-making power and unequal access to resources.</p> <p>As farmers, market sellers, businesswomen, artisans, entrepreneurs and community leaders, mountain women and girls, in particular in rural areas, have the potential to be major agents of change. When rural women have access to resources, services and opportunities, they become a driving force against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty and are active in the development of mountain economies.</p> <p>To trigger real change towards sustainable development, it is important to engage in gender transformative change.</p> <p>International Mountain Day 2022 is an opportunity raise awareness about the need to empower mountain women so they can participate more effectively in decision-making processes and have more control over productive resources. By sharing excellence, opportunities and capacity development in mountains, the Day can promote gender equality and therefore contribute to improve social justice, livelihoods and resilience.</p> <p><i>Pray that each one of us will do our part to engage with this issue.</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>The Third Week of Advent</p> <p>I lift my heart up to you, Lord, to thank you for the blessings you shower on me each day.</p> <p>You are the 'joy of my soul.' I know that in your great love, I am held and protected by you.</p> <p>I pray and listen to the good news you send; I ask and feel the healing. I am freed by you from the things in this world that let me hide from you.</p> <p>I rejoice, I rejoice, down to my soul. Help me to prepare my heart to be open and able to receive your immense love.</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Prayer of Thanksgiving for Creation</p> <p>Lord you give life to life! From Day One, your Spirit brooding over the deep, your wind rushing, your breath filling.</p> <p>As creatures of the earth, we inhale your grace, rejoicing in life abundant.</p> <p>We use our breath, our being to raise this hymn of praise: Hallelujah to the sun's hot passion embracing the ground's great shoulders! Hallelujahs for the growth from seed to plant greening the earth; its fruit - beauty and food! Hallelujahs for generations of life tumbling one after another, life creeping, swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within.</p> <p>All the world sings, calls, signals, speaks praise to God whose glory grows in all that breathes! Fill us, enliven us to be ambassadors of life divine, breathing out your song in harmony, singing to our Creator, whose Holy Spirit is unending, ageless, eternal and ever new.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Appreciating Our Place in Time</p> <p>Here's one way to try to grasp our place in time, in the history of the universe and the Earth. Begin by imagining a ten-volume encyclopaedia set. This will represent the 5 billion year history of Earth (which followed 8-10 billion years of the universe's development).</p> <p>Each volume of Earth's history holds 500 pages; each page represents 1 million years. In such an encyclopaedia set, life - in the form of the first cellular life - does not appear until volume 8, with much of that volume devoted to plants, though reptiles reach their peak about page 440. Humans come along fairly late in this story ...page 499, of the last of the ten volumes! In this model (configured to stop at the year 2000), the time of organised human civilization (the past 6,000 years) is represented by the final two words on the very last page.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>14</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marveling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it precious because it was the only one, and they would protect it so it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.</p>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Read John 3:16-18</p> <p><i>“God loved the world so much that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”</i></p> <p>I look around this world that God created to be so beautiful, I think of my needs and my neighbours in need, at home and overseas. I think of the election period we’ve just been through, and our responsibility to work together for the common good.</p> <p>I hear Jesus’ words, by believing in him, anyone “may have eternal life”. This fullness of life is what we wish to create for ourselves and to pass on to our children and our brothers and sisters worldwide, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable.</p> <p>To make this possible, God gave us the Son who sent the Spirit. Together this is the Holy Trinity. How can I begin to conceive this? Yet, I am a wife, mother, friend, all aspects of me created by God, making up the whole me. The common ingredient in all these roles is the love I hope to share with each person, a love I hope too to experience. The Lord shows me how to do this, to be made of different facets, none diminished by the other, all enhanced by the other, all rooted in love.</p> <p><i>Lord, we pray for our country that it can be, with your help, an outward looking, tolerant and welcoming nation. We pray for our political leaders that they will hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Help me to love without end, to be part of your mystical body shared with us in the Holy Trinity. Amen.</i></p> <p><i>This reflection and prayer were written by Joy Wanless from Our Lady of Grace parish, Manchester</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>“In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life and this life brought light to humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.”</p> <p><i>John 1:1-5 (GNB)</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>17</p>	 <p>The first Christmas was pretty simple. It's okay if yours is too.</p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>The Fourth Week of Advent</p> <p>Oh, <i>Adonai</i>, dearest Lord, Compassionate God of justice, so many areas of my life seem imprisoned but you promise me real freedom and peace in my life.</p> <p>Renew my spirit and free my soul. Please, open my heart which you have bathed in the longing of Advent.</p> <p>I am awe-struck as your glory fills the earth and I want to follow you in caring for others. Grant me the grace to see how you shine your light on the poor who have such a special place in your heart.</p> <p><i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>The Holly and the Ivy</p> <p>The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown, Of all trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown</p> <p>O, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the chior</p> <p>The holly bears a blossom, As white as lily flow'r, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our dear Saviour</p> <p>The holly bears a berry, As red as any blood, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To do poor sinners good</p> <p>The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, On Christmas Day in the morn</p> <p>The holly bears a bark, As bitter as the gall, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, For to redeem us all</p> <p>The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown, Of all trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown,</p> <p><i>Song by Andrew Peterson</i></p>



Tuesday

20

A Ranger's Christmas

Exhaustion, anger, loneliness and fear. Add relief, love, thankfulness and hope, and you might find yourself in the middle of a story tucked away in the middle of the African bush. Death is draped over a Marula branch but hope rises with the sun in the eastern sky. There is a constant battle between the “End” and a “Brand new beginning”. In the end we see what we choose to see. December in the African bush is coloured with lush green grass and leaves on trees that seemed to have died during the winter months. A new-born impala lamb calls her mother for milk, or tells a leopard where she is - it all depends.

A Ranger in his camouflaged uniform tries to hide himself from the poachers, yet at the same time wants to be visible for his family. At home he hides his rifle but in the bush he carries it with pride. The full moon hanging over the Sabie River marks the victory of a successful month but also sets the stage for another rhino to be killed.

A Ranger walks to the river but this time with a Bible in his hand. His rifle hangs over his shoulder – just in case. He starts paging through the New Testament and reads the familiar Christmas story. He feels guilty when he realises it is the first time in months that he opens his Bible. Some characters feel like old friends but others feel like distant family you only see on a funeral of a distant relative.




He remembers the shepherds but he forgets all about the angels. He remembers Mary and Joseph sitting in the stable but forgets all about them running for their lives hiding in Egypt. He can visualise the wise men asking King Herod about the new Saviour but it is the first time he experiences the raw emotions of utter fear and devastation sweeping through the village after the King gave the order to kill the baby boys.

The Bible becomes real – very real once you read it with emotion. Suddenly you realise that your reality is not so far removed from that story. ‘Mary’s Fear’- not knowing if you will see another day. ‘Wise men’s exhaustion’ – running after a star to be on time. ‘Joseph’s Anger’- when you can’t find an inn. ‘Shepard’s Loneliness’- when the village carries on but you are on your own.

He closes his Bible and stares into the distance with thoughts running through his mind. “The story is more real than ever. Where did the emotions come from?” A sudden rustle behind him makes him jump for his gun. This time it is only a scrub hare but enough to make him realise how real his emotions have become. They say “real men don’t cry” so he wipes the drop running from his left eye. He never knew that questions can cause “rain” and he looks around to check if an owl in the nearby tree is watching him. “If there are still men who kill the innocent for self-gain, are there still angels too?” For a moment his mind wanders to the crib. “A thousand times in history a baby has become a king to rule a nation but only one time has a King become a baby to save all nations”.

“The story is filled with irony but so is the bush – so is my life”.

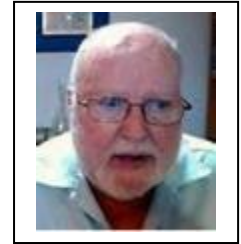
		<p>The Ranger kicks the sand to determine the direction of the wind. For now the wind disguises him but a sudden change can reveal his identity and expose him to the enemy, and when it does the Ranger will transform into a soldier.</p> <p>The Ranger bows down but this time it is not to close his rucksack. This time he doesn't check who is watching but he keeps his eyes open to face potential danger. A soft whisper runs from his lips. "My King, your story is real – filled with emotions like mine. You faced death since you were a baby and then your family faced the fear on your behalf. My King, I forgot the people close to me but because of them I am still alive. There will be a time when wind of circumstances change in favour of your enemy but you provided ahead of time. You send wise men to provide gifts to supply all my needs or a dream of warning to remind me to put on my armour. My King, I might not be responsible for the wind but I am response-able. I can be a protector for one and a soldier for another. I pray with open eyes my King to see what you still maintain."</p> <p>"That Lion I hear in the distance reminds me of You. I don't always see you but your voice is enough. You proclaim your territory tonight and I am part of it. You announce your presence but it is my choice to listen. Many do not fear you when your voice is soft but in your mercy you reveal yourself to some through tension and drama. My King, I pray that when that time comes to face the tension I will see the Lion standing right behind it - and when I face a Lion remind me not to run. Use my fear to be still and know that you are God".</p> <p>The Ranger closes his eyes after prayer, takes a deep breath and says: "Silent night..."</p> <p>Then he hears a gunshot as the wind suddenly changes.</p> <p><i>Yolandi du Plessis</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>21</p>	

Thursday

22

God Becoming

John Duns Scotus (1265/66-1308), who made the Franciscan intuition into a philosophy, said Christ was the very first idea in the mind of God, *and God, as it were, has never stopped thinking, dreaming, and creating the one, eternal Christ.* “The immense diversity and pluriformity of this creation more perfectly represents God than any one creature alone or by itself,” adds Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) in his *Summa Theologica* (47:1).




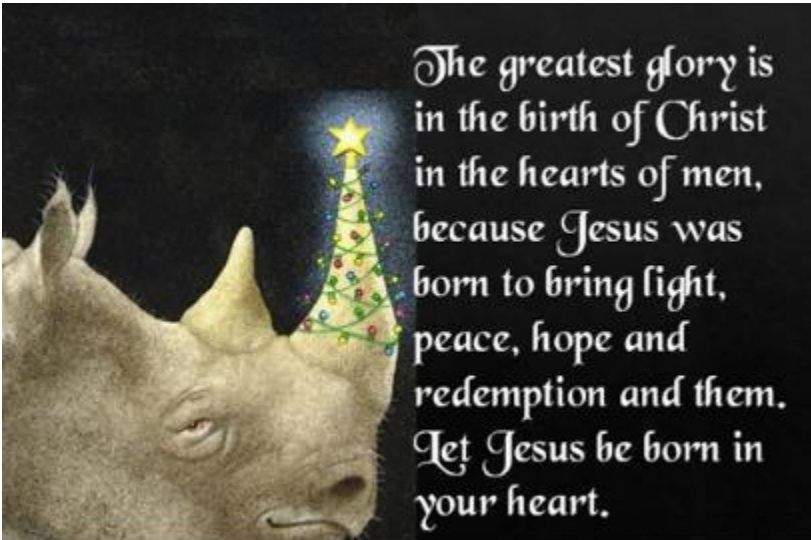
Ilia Delio describes the dance between God and the universe: “God is eternal, self-sufficient divinity; yet the universe contributes something that is vitally necessary to God. Creation is integral to God. It contributes to God what God lacks in his[her] own divinity, namely, materiality. Evolution is not only the universe coming to be, but it is *God* who is *coming to be.*”

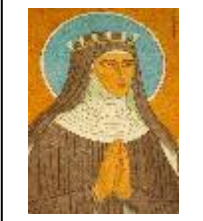
Some Christians are uncomfortable with the idea of evolution, although it's rather impossible to deny the fossil record. Perhaps they are afraid to allow themselves to go beyond a very literal reading of the Bible. Or perhaps they feel God is being replaced by scientific and natural laws. They may feel like evolution somehow takes away human dignity. But think about it: we all come from the same origin, the same God. Who else created the natural laws or the ability of scientists to discover scientific laws? And doesn't it make sense that God would create things that create themselves? As Delio points out, Teilhard de Chardin “said that evolution imparts a new identity to the human person; we are the arrow of evolution and the direction of its future.” We are co-creators with God, in however minor a way. Delio writes: “Evolution discloses a new God, an immanent-transcendent fullness of love that inspires us to create anew, a new earth with a new God rising from within. . . . Evolution is ‘wholemaking’ in action, the rise of consciousness that realizes self-separateness is an illusion.”

For many of us, it's hard to imagine that *God* is actually evolving. We've heard that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Yes, and God is love, and God has always been love, and God will always be love. But God can also evolve to be *more love!* Surely you've noticed that it's the most loving people you know who want to be more loving. That's just the character of love—it's always expansive and multiplies itself.

When we trust that our world and our own selves are evolving, we don't have to cling so tightly to everything being just so, to being correct and in control. God is not static, and neither is our universe. It is ever changing, with the possibility—through our participation—of evolving toward greater love and wholeness. But this outcome isn't guaranteed. Mary Evelyn Tucker and Brian Swimme caution and encourage us:

Our sense of the whole is emerging in a fresh way as we feel ourselves embraced by the evolutionary powers unfolding over time into forms of ever-greater complexity and consciousness. We are realizing too, that evolution moves forward with transitions, such as the movement from inorganic matter to organic life and from single celled organisms to plants and animals that sweep through the evolutionary unfolding of the universe, the Earth, the human. All

		<p>such transitions come at times of crisis; they involve tremendous cost, and they result in new forms of creativity. The central reality of our times is that we are in such a transition moment. This is not an easy moment as already human suffering and environment loss are widespread. It is not a guaranteed transition, as it will require tremendous human creativity, emotional intelligence, and spiritual strength.</p> <p>Yes, <i>you</i> are the “Second Coming of Christ”!</p> <p>Gateway to Silence: Evolving toward love</p> <p>From Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations www.cac.org</p>
Friday	23	<p>“The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.”</p> <p>John Paul II</p> 
Saturday	24	<p>Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.</p> <p>Karen L. Oberst</p>
Sunday	25	 <p>The greatest glory is in the birth of Christ in the hearts of men, because Jesus was born to bring light, peace, hope and redemption and them. Let Jesus be born in your heart.</p>
Monday	26	<p>Be still, and listen to the day, touch the breeze with the quiet in your soul. Let the turning turbulence of the hurly burly rushing and the busy dizzy people, never waste a second, pass you by. God bless you with the quiet whisper, which in all the day ’s doing keeps a calm silent centre in your being.</p> <p>Chris Polhill</p>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Love abounds in all things, excels from the depths to beyond the stars, is lovingly disposed to all things. he has given the king on high the kiss of peace.</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen</i></p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? [Yet] ...you have given them dominion over the works of your hands</p> <p><i>Psalm 8:3-4, 6a</i></p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Traditional Gaelic blessing</p> <p>Deep peace of the running wave to you, Of water flowing, rising and falling, Sometimes advancing, sometimes receding. May the stream of your life flow unimpeded! Deep peace of the running wave to you!</p> <p>Deep peace of the flowing air to you, Which fans your face on a sultry day, The air which you breathe deeply, rhythmically, Which imparts to you energy, consciousness, life. Deep peace of the flowing air to you!</p> <p>Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, Who, herself unmoving, harbours the movements And facilitates the life of the ten thousand creatures. While resting contented, stable, tranquil. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you!</p> <p>Deep peace of the shining stars to you, Which stay invisible till darkness falls And discloses their pure and shining presence Beaming down in compassion on our turning world. Deep peace of the shining stars to you!</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Our great and Gracious God, As we come to the close of another year, we would indeed make it the prayer of our hearts that you would abide with us. We thank you that you have been with us through the days of this past year. Perhaps many a day we have not felt you near, Perhaps at times we have even felt that you have forsaken us and forgotten us but we thank you that it has never been so. We thank you that you are constantly with your people, and that you have enabled us to persevere in grace, You have comforted our hearts, You have heard our prayers, You have come so often to our aid. We pray that you will go with us into this new year.</p>	

		<p>There is none of us who knows what the new year will hold, but we thank you that every moment of that year is in your hands, and you will be with your people.</p> <p>We thank you that with that promise girding us, we can go forward with confidence and in your peace. We pray that you will help us to walk with you in this new year better than we have ever done before. Forgive us, Lord, for our sins and our backslidings of this past year.</p> <p>Grant to us, as the days of the new year unfold, an ever closer walk with you. Help us to put sin to death,</p> <p>Help us gladly yield our lives unreservedly to Jesus Christ, our saviour, and God that we may regard ourselves entirely at his disposal to be, to go, to do, as he would wish.</p> <p>We pray that it may be our privilege to serve him, to bring glory to him, to help others to know him better, and to help some, indeed, to come to know him for the first time.</p> <p>Have mercy, we pray, upon those connected with us who come to the end of this year and their hearts are still closed against you, still hardening their hearts against you.</p> <p>Spare them, O God, we pray; spare them! Grant that this new year would mark the beginning of new life in Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for the almighty Holy Spirit, for his limitless power to bring conviction of sin, to give new birth, and to draw those who are away from you to faith and to repentance.</p> <p>We pray, Lord, that you would do that in the hearts and lives of all who are upon our hearts.</p> <p>For Jesus' sake, Amen.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>31</p>	