





# JAEI




## April 2023 Environmental Prayer Diary


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

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>That the Earth be revered and cared for as God intends, <i>let us pray to the Lord.</i></p> <p>That we stop poisoning the soil and seas with trash and toxins, <i>let us pray to the Lord</i></p> <p>That we repent of our greed and live simply and lightly on the Earth, <i>let us pray to the Lord.</i></p> <p>That all members of this faith community take seriously our religious leaders' mandate to protect the Earth, <i>let us pray to the Lord.</i></p> <p>That global warming is halted and reversed before more damage can occur, <i>let us pray to the Lord.</i></p> <p>That protection of the Earth be a top political priority, <i>let us pray to the Lord.</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>Father, Palm Sunday is a reminder of the unexpected, yet fully anticipated, King of Kings. Jesus did not look like the Messiah Your people hoped for. The way He entered the Holy City of Jerusalem on that day, riding a young donkey as a significant sign of peace and fulfillment of prophecy, did not align with their expectations of a military conqueror. Much of our daily lives don't align with our expectations, Father. So much of our lives don't make sense. This Palm Sunday, let us embrace the unexpected entrance of our Savior, Jesus. He is Peace. Let us apply this incredible truth to our lives. Peace mattered to Jesus. He came to bring us Peace. He is peace. Father, how quickly we forget the Peace we possess in Christ! Remind us, minute by minute, as we navigate difficult days and trying times. Father, we need Peace to live life to the full, as Jesus died for us to live.</p> <p>Amen</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>3</p>	



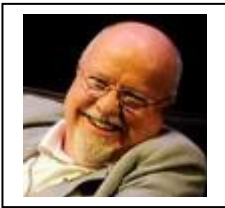
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>God our Father, teach us how to live more simply, that others may simply live. Help us to turn from our arrogant ways. Redeem us, redeem your world, heal its wounds and dry its tears, for the sake of your dear Son, who died for us all.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Joel 2:18-27</b></p> <p><b>The LORD's Answer</b></p> <p><sup>18</sup> Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> The LORD replied to them:</p> <p>"I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.</p> <p><sup>20</sup> "I will drive the northern horde far from you, pushing it into a parched and barren land; its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea. And its stench will go up; its smell will rise."</p> <p>Surely he has done great things!</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Do not be afraid, land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things!</p> <p><sup>22</sup> Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.</p> <p><sup>24</sup> The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten -the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm - my great army that I sent among you.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.</p> <p><sup>27</sup> Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Maundy Thursday</b></p> <p>Loving God and Sustainer of the Universe, you long to restore us to unity with one another and with creation. You long to heal us and make us whole. Break our hearts open, that we may live into the blessing of the Cross and the hope of resurrection..</p> <p>Empty us of our own desires so that we may we receive your vision as fresh and fertile soil prepared to sprout seeds of new beginning. May your heavenly will be done on earth and by your graciousness, may we create places of renewal while we await the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Amen</p> 


<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>Merciful God, in the shadow of the cross, you provide us with the gift of salvation. In your forgiveness, we learn to forgive. Unburdened by sin, we receive your light. Guide us so that we may love radically and reflect brilliantly even in darkness.</p> 
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Vigil of Easter</b></p> <p>Sovereign of the universe, wellspring of life, fountain of redemption, we praise you. With sun and moon, winds and rain, light and darkness, we glorify you. With rivers and seas, wild beasts and cattle, and all humanity, we magnify you. This night, in the resurrection of your Son, you have revealed the destiny of all creation -- life in your mercy. Glory, glory, glory, to you our God.</p> 
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 25:6-9</b></p> <p><sup>6</sup> <i>On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines.</i></p> <p><sup>7</sup> <i>On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; <sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.</i></p> <p><i>The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.</i></p> <p><sup>9</sup> <i>In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.</i></p> <p>Jesus Christ, In changing weather, vanishing species And impoverished neighbours, The heavens and earth bear witness against us. As you lit an Easter fire and cooked breakfast, Fashioning God’s kingdom From the stuff of this earth, So when we cook and light and warm our homes Make us people of your resurrection, Choosing life Through simplicity, ingenuity and obedience. Amen</p> <p><b>Eleanor Harris</b></p> 



<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Alleluia! He is risen!          Joining with all creation I rejoice in Christ's resurrection victory over death and decay and celebrate in the liberation and renewal for us and all things that it brings.          Risen Lord, show me one thing that I can do today to show your love and hope of renewal for the natural world around me.          Amen</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>All Nature's Works His Praise Declare</b></p> <p>All nature's works His praise declare, to whom they all belong;          There is a voice in every star, in every breeze a song.          Sweet music fills the world abroad with strains of love and power;          The stormy sea sings praise to God, the thunder and the shower.</p> <p>To God the tribes of ocean cry, and birds upon the wing;          To God the powers that dwell on high their tuneful tribute bring.          Like them, let us the throne surround, with them loud chorus raise,          While instruments of loftier sound assist our feeble praise.</p> <p>Great God, to Thee we consecrate our voices and our skill;          We bid the pealing organ wait to speak alone Thy will.          O, teach its rich and swelling notes to lift our souls on high;          And while the music round us floats, let earth born passions die.</p> <p><b>Henry Ware, Jr.</b>          (1794–1843)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	 <p><b>"The environment is in us, not outside of us. The trees are our lungs, the rivers our bloodstream. We are all interconnected, and what you do to the environment ultimately you do to yourself."</b></p> <p><small>Ian Somerhalder</small></p>






<p>Thursday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p><b>The Christification of the Universe</b></p> <p><i>The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.</i> —John 6:51</p> <p>Jesus the Christ did not talk in this truly shocking way (see John 6:60) so we could worship bread and wine. He came so that we would recognize his presence in all things, not just in the human body of Jesus, not just in the human body of God’s people (1 Corinthians 12:12ff), but even in the nurturing elements of the earth, symbolized by the ubiquitous food of bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:23ff), and therefore to the very edges of creation (Romans 8:19). The mystery that was made personal and specific in Jesus was revealed as the shape of the entire universe. What else could the universe be but “the body of God”? Think about it. The Incarnate One is the stand-in for “everything in heaven and everything on earth” (Ephesians 1:10). This is not a competing religious statement as much as a highly symbolic metaphysical plan “from the beginning,” “from the foundation of the world” (see Ephesians 1).</p> <p>God is not just saving people; God is saving all of creation. It is all “Real Presence.” We could call it the primordial “Christification” or anointing of the universe at Creation. This is not pantheism (God is everything), but panentheism (God is <i>in</i> everything!). Such a central message of cosmic incarnation was never seriously taught in the Western, overly individualistic church, except by a few like Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), and Bonaventure (1221-1274). It was much more common in the Eastern Church, especially in early scholars and mystics like Maximus the Confessor, Gregory of Nyssa, and Symeon the New Theologian.</p> <p>Inspired by the more contemporary mystic scientist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Franciscan sister and scientist Ilia Delio writes:</p> <p>Christ invests himself organically within all creation, immersing himself in things, in the heart of matter, and thus unifying the world. The universe is physically impregnated to the very core of its matter by the influence of his superhuman nature. Everything is physically “christified,” gathered up by the incarnate Word as nourishment that assimilates, transforms, and divinizes.</p> <p>From the way we treat the planet, other humans, and sometimes even ourselves, it seems we don’t understand or really believe this. When you <i>don’t</i> recognize that the Christ Mystery is universal, that God is present in—and is saving—all of creation, you can choose what you respect and what you disrespect, what you love and what you hate. The full Gospel takes away from you any power to decide and discriminate where God is and where God isn’t. The old Baltimore Catechism answered the sixteenth question, “Where is God?” quite clearly: “God is everywhere.” But we never really believed it!</p> <p><b>Gateway to Silence:</b>  Brother Sun, Sister Moon, help me see God in all things</p> <p><b>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</b>  <a href="http://www.cac.org">www.cac.org</a></p>
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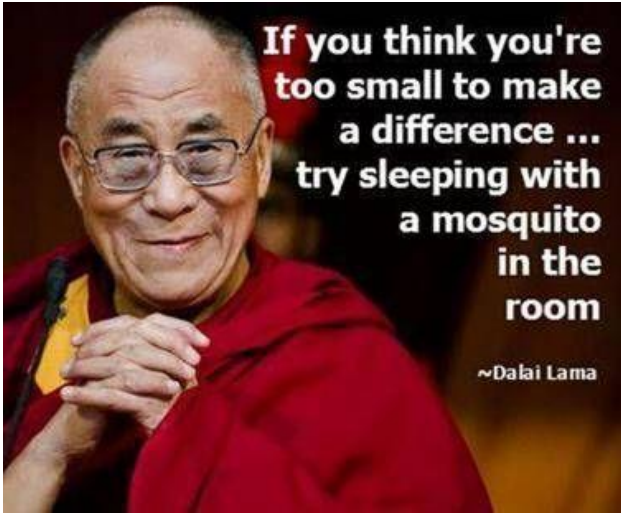



<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>“Is it foolish to believe in God when we can’t solve all the mysteries that exist in our universe? Not at all! In fact, the more we learn about our universe and the more mysteries we uncover, the more we realize that it is foolish not to believe in God.”</p> <p><b>Lawrence O. Richards</b> <i>Author and Theologian</i></p> 
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>A prayer of praise from St Francis</b></p> <p>You are holy, Lord, the only God, and Your deeds are wonderful. You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High. You are Almighty. You, Holy Father are King of heaven and earth. You are Three and One, Lord God, all good. You are good, all good, supreme good, Lord God, living and true.</p> <p>You are love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance. You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and moderation.</p> <p>You are all our riches, and You suffice for us. You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender. You are our courage.</p> <p>You are our haven and our hope. You are our faith, our great consolation. You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord, God Almighty, Merciful Saviour.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>God, of the living earth  You have called people to care for your world -  you asked Noah to save creatures from destruction.  May we now understand how to sustain your world –  Not over-fishing, not over-hunting,  Not destroying trees, precious rainforest  Not farming soil into useless dust.  Help us to find ways to use resources wisely  to find a path to good, sustainable living  in peace and harmony with creatures around us.  Amen</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	




<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b>Chapter Two - Starting anew</b></p> <p>77. Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people’s troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment. Like the chance traveller in the parable, we need only have a pure and simple desire to be a people, a community, constant and tireless in the effort to include, integrate and lift up the fallen. We may often find ourselves succumbing to the mentality of the violent, the blindly ambitious, those who spread mistrust and lies. Others may continue to view politics or the economy as an arena for their own power plays. For our part, let us foster what is good and place ourselves at its service.</p> <p>78. We can start from below and, case by case, act at the most concrete and local levels, and then expand to the farthest reaches of our countries and our world, with the same care and concern that the Samaritan showed for each of the wounded man’s injuries. Let us seek out others and embrace the world as it is, without fear of pain or a sense of inadequacy, because there we will discover all the goodness that God has planted in human hearts. Difficulties that seem overwhelming are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation that can lead only to acquiescence. Yet let us not do this alone, as individuals. The Samaritan discovered an innkeeper who would care for the man; we too are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual members. For “the whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts”.<sup>[60]</sup> Let us renounce the pettiness and resentment of useless in-fighting and constant confrontation. Let us stop feeling sorry for ourselves and acknowledge our crimes, our apathy, our lies. Reparation and reconciliation will give us new life and set us all free from fear.</p> <p>79. The Samaritan who stopped along the way departed without expecting any recognition or gratitude. His effort to assist another person gave him great satisfaction in life and before his God, and thus became a duty. All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>“All my life through, the new sights of Nature made me rejoice like a child.”</p> <p><b><i>Marie Curie</i></b></p>	

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>"Climate change is much more than an issue of environmental preservation. Insofar as human-induced, it is a profoundly moral and spiritual problem. To persist in our current path of ecological destruction is not only folly. It is suicidal because it jeopardizes the diversity of our planet. Moreover, climate change constitutes a matter of social and economic justice. For, those who will most directly and severely be affected by climate change will be the poorer and more vulnerable nations (what Christian Scriptures refer to as our "neighbour") as well as the younger and future generations (the world of our children, and of our children's children)."</p> <p><i>His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew</i></p>	
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>Children's Earth Prayer</b></p> <p>Dear God, thank you for this beautiful planet. Bless it and keep it safe from harm. We pray for the protection of the animals, the soil, air and water. May we care for all you have made. Help us to love the Earth as you do. Amen.</p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Earth Day</b></p> <p><i>The 2023 Earth Day Theme is "Invest in Our Planet."</i></p> <p>Once again, we must act boldly in order to achieve a successful outcome. We should innovate in a broader sense and put our ideas into practice in an equitable manner.</p> <p>Our planet needs our investment now. As we look forward to 2023, it is necessary that we come together once again in partnership for our mother earth. In order for a green, prosperous, and equitable future to become a reality, businesses, governments, and civil society must take action against the climate crisis.</p> <p>Let's once again adopt a green economy to take advantage of its benefits. Developing a stable future requires widespread support from governments, society, institutions, and businesses .... And yes, even individuals!</p> <p>For Earth Day 2023, act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). Businesses, governments, and citizens - everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable.</p> <p>So, get Inspired! Take action! Be a part of the green revolution! A partnership for the planet.</p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer for Earth Day</b></p> <p>Heavenly Father and Mother, thank you for our life-giving Earth that we celebrate today on Earth Day. Bless all the celebrations, educational programs, and projects that seek to express our appreciation for this great gift. May we be zealous for the Earth not just today, but every day of our lives. Guide us in the monumental and important mission of restoring the integrity of creation. We dedicate our lives anew to you and to this great work of our time. Bless all our efforts that they may bear tremendous fruit.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	



<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	 <p><b>If you think you're too small to make a difference ... try sleeping with a mosquito in the room</b></p> <p>~Dalai Lama</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>World Penguin Day</b></p> <p>World Penguin Day on April 25 aims to raise awareness about these flightless birds - whose numbers and habitats are dwindling by the day – and to preserve their species so that future generations get to see these elegant and remarkable creatures. . The day also aims to bring international focus on the conservation of penguin habitats.</p> <p>South Africa’s own (and only) endemic African penguin has experienced rapid population declines over the past century as a result of overexploitation for food, habitat modification of nesting sites, oil spillages, and competition for food resources with commercial fishing. As a result, it is classified as Endangered by the IUCN Red List and it is listed under Appendix II of the CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species). In South Africa, it is further listed as a protected species under the National Environment Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004)</p> <p>The African penguins are undergoing very rapid population declines. The initial records of African penguin populations along the Namibia and South African coastline estimated around one million breeding pairs in the 1920s but these populations have rapidly declined to less than 30 000 pairs. For example, it is estimated that breeding population in South Africa has experienced a 95% decline in six years from 69 000 pairs in 2001 to 20 000 pairs in 2011. As a result it is projected that the African penguin may become extinct within the next 15 years. The African penguin play important roles in their ecosystem, both as a food source for sharks and seals and also act as predators to small fish such as anchovies and sardines.</p> <p>Fisheries Management and closing fishing grounds around breeding colonies is one possible solution of saving these iconic little birds. Creating Marine Protected Areas around penguin colonies will protect schooling fish in these protected areas, reduce competition with fisheries, and result in there being more fish available for penguins to feed on.</p> 

		<p>However, these are policy decisions and are totally out of our hands, but there are steps we can take (even living many kilometres from the penguin’s homes), and again it comes down to us reducing our impact on the earth.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle at home</li> <li>• Eat right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Look at the WWF SASSI list (sardine is orange)</li> <li>○ Is the meat you eat fed on wild caught anchovy?</li> <li>○ Eat local and in season fish</li> <li>○ Reduce your meat (including fish) consumption</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shop better <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce single use plastic use</li> <li>○ Stop using plastic bags</li> <li>○ Use less or no plastic packaging</li> <li>○ Reduce your carbon footprint</li> <li>○ Walk or cycle where possible</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hold Penguin Conservation Organisations up in prayer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>Creator God  We come before you in a time of crisis  We know that much of your creation struggles  We begin to see and acknowledge the changes around us  We search for the causes and the cures and the collaborative ways we can commit to care for creation</p> <p>We want to do what’s right  But we don’t always know what that is,  Or agree how best to do it.</p> <p>Help us learn what we must,  listening to the diverse voices of creation itself  Help us understand and love what you have loved and called “very good”</p> <p>Enliven that understanding, we ask, to allow ourselves to be moved to act as we should and to halt actions that harm</p> <p>Guide us as we try to discern how best to truly hear each other as well as creation  And heed your Call</p> <p>We ask for forgiveness where we have taken too much or cared too little  for hearts willing to listen and change  and will to follow through</p>

		<p>May the knowledge of your presence and the assurance of your love Shape our time here and always We pray in your name, Amen.</p> <p><b><i>For The Love Of Creation Coalition, Canada</i></b></p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>27</b>	<p><b>International Hyena Day</b></p> <p>April 27<sup>th</sup> is International Hyena Day which advocates for changing the public's perspective on hyenas and seeing their importance on Earth.</p>  <p>Hyenas don't have the greatest reputation due to centuries of bad publicity through literature and folklore. Spread through Africa and Asia, hyenas are intelligent mammals living in clans of 10 to 120 animals. Hyena aren't just cunning killers, but they're also useful scavengers. The bone crushers will clean the site of a kill and rid it of discarded bones and debris. Predators will only eat the fleshy bits from their kill. Hyenas have highly acidic stomachs to break down their food, even though it isn't the freshest quality... The scavenging behaviour of hyenas is a free disease control annually prevents five infections of anthrax and bTB in humans, and other animals.</p> <p>Their "demonic laugh" is often misunderstood, as it occurs when a lower-ranking animal is stressed. Hyenas are vulnerable to extinction because of habitat loss and persecution by farmers and poachers.</p> <p>Unfortunately, like many of Africa's animals, all types of hyenas are under threat due to habitat loss, legal and illegal hunting, and prey depletion. Trophy hunters seeking the largest hyenas mainly remove breeding females, which weakens the genetic viability and leadership experience of the clan.</p> <p>Hyenas are a valuable part of the eco-system and deserve so much more respect than what they currently receive.</p> <p>We can help hyenas by protecting their habitats and promoting sustainable land use practices. Disease control measures, such as vaccination programs for domestic animals, can also help to reduce the spread of diseases to wild Brown Hyena populations .... and yes, we do have populations of the rare Brown Hyena in the greater Witwatersrand area.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <p><b><i>Assess your own attitude to these remarkable animals and change negative to positive!</i></b></p> 
<b>Friday</b>	<b>28</b>	<p>"Human use, population, and technology have reached that certain stage where Mother Earth no longer accepts our presence with silence."</p> <p><b><i>Dalai Lama XIV</i></b></p> 

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Creator God, who made our beautiful world, appointed us as its guardians and gifted us with everything we need, forgive us for the times we cause it harm; for the times our way of life affects our neighbours.</p> <p>Inspire us to care for the environment; to help rebuild lives and communities; to share in the griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes of all your people, so that all your creation may flourish.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p><b><i>Stephen Davies/CAFOD</i></b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	