

“Let Justice and Peace Flow”

***World Day of Prayer for Creation:
September 1, 2023***

***Season of Creation:
September 1 – October 4, 2023***



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

*The earth is our mother. She is mother of all
that is natural, mother of all that is human.*

*The earth contains all moistness, all
verdancy, all germinating power.*

She is in so many ways fruitful.

*All life comes from her. Yet she forms not
only the basic raw material for humankind,
but even the substance of the incarnation of
God's Son.*

Hildegard of Bingen, 12th century mystic



Glance at the sun.

See the moon and stars.

Gaze at the beauty of Earth's greenings.

Now think what delight God gives humankind.

But we are to work with it.

For without it we cannot survive.

Hildegard of Bingen, 12th century mystic



But we have only begun
To love the earth.

We have only begun
To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?
- so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?
-we have only begun
To imagine justice and mercy.
Only begun to envision
How it might be
To live as siblings with beast and flower
not as oppressors.

Surely our river
cannot already be hastening
Into the sea of non-being?

Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,
all that is innocent?

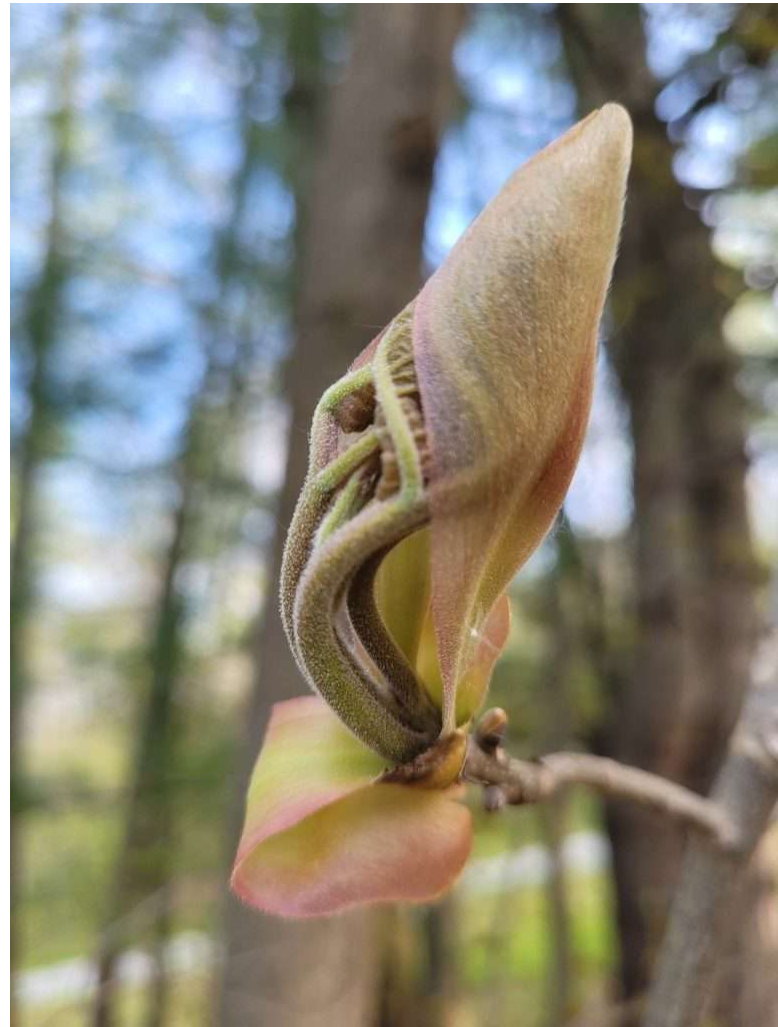


Not yet. not yet -
there is too much broken
that must be mended,
too much hurt we have done to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must complete its
gesture,
So much is in bud.

Denise Levertov, "Beginners"



Pope Francis says:

“Just as the hearts of babies in the womb beat in harmony with those of their mothers, so in order to grow as people, **we need to harmonize our rhythms with those of creation**, which gives us life.”

“During this Season of Creation, **let us dwell on those heartbeats:** our own and those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. **Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace.**”

World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation Message



Creator of All,

From your communion of love
life sprung forth like a mighty river
and the whole cosmos came into being.

On this Earth of overflowing love,
the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-
giving waters proclaiming
peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till
and keep your garden.
You placed us into right relationship with each creature,
but we failed to listen
to the cries of the Earth
and the cries of the most vulnerable.
We broke with the flowing communion
of love and sinned against you
by not safeguarding the conditions for life.



We lament the loss of
our fellow species and their habitats,
we grieve the loss of human cultures,
along with the lives and livelihoods that have been
displaced or perished,
and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and
violence
that we have inflicted on ourselves
and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative,
reconciling and sustaining word
that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book
of creation.
Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the
Creator Spirit
may let justice and peace
flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.



Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's
justice and peace,
and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all
creatures around us,
and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so
that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice
and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news
to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Amos 5:21-24

"I can't stand your religious meetings.
I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.
I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
your pretentious slogans and goals.
I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,
your public relations and image making.
I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.
When was the last time you sang to me?
Do you know what I want?
I want justice—oceans of it.
I want fairness—rivers of it.
That's what I want. That's all I want."

(Message Translation)



LAMENT FOR THE EARTH

ALL: God we ask for your mercy and help.

L: We have filled the waters of the earth with poison and pollution.
We have harmed people, animals, fish and plants with this water.
We have continued to fill the waters with chemicals, plastics and garbage even when we know this is harmful.

ALL: God have mercy on us and forgive us.
Help us to care for these precious waters that sustain us.

L: We have poisoned and polluted the land.
We have destroyed forests and fields.
Our foods are no longer rich in nutrients.
We continue to harm people, animals and plants with our poisons and pollution.

ALL: God have mercy on us and forgive us.
Help us to care for the land that sustains us.

L: We have poisoned and polluted the air.
We continue to burn fossil fuels that are heating our atmosphere.
We are harming people, animals and plants with these poisons and pollution.
We know this, yet we continue to burn and pollute our air.

ALL: God have mercy on us and forgive us.
Help us to care for the air that sustains us.



LAMENT FOR THE EARTH

L: The earth is suffering and groaning
With floods and fires.
Glaciers are melting and forests are disappearing
While deserts are increasing.

ALL: Oh God forgive us!

L: We have done this to the beautiful earth you create,
filled with living creatures that we are harming, including
ourselves. We have ignored the warnings. We have not
acted when we realized long ago we were culpable.

ALL: God we ask you to help us do what is right.
Help us to care for our planet and all who inhabit it.

L: Even now, if you do not help us it will be too late.
We put our hope in you. Help us and sustain us.

ALL: God have mercy on us! Amen



*Let's journey together
with other Christian Churches
with the people of God in all their diversity
with those who hear the cry of the earth
with those on the margins of our societies
with young adults
with people of all generations
with all who are seeking meaning in life.*

Pope Francis



John 7: 37-39

“On the final and climactic day of the Feast,
Jesus took his stand and said in a loud voice,
“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.
Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the
depths of anyone who believes in me this way,
just as the Scripture says.”

He said this in regard to the Spirit, whom those
who believed in him were about to receive. The
Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had
not yet been glorified.”

(Message Translation)



A Psalm of Bringing to Birth

L: Spiritans, what will we bring to birth in the world of the new creation?

R: Wisdom and justice, peace and compassion, concern for all God's little ones, for the homeless and the destitute, the hungry, and all who bear the brunt of indifference and oppression.

L: Spiritans, what will we bring to birth on the earth of the new creation?

R: A deep respect for our planet, its wind-song and its waters, its topsoil and its forests, and a oneness with the wilderness that is the image of our soul.

L: Spiritans, what will we bring to birth in the church of the new creation?

R: A disdain for power that diminishes and destroys, divestment of wealth and status, a sharing of human resources based on mutuality and the sudden surprise of grace.

L: Spiritans, what will we bring to birth in the hearts of the new creation?

R: An unbreakable bond in the Spirit that binds as one all brothers and sisters, transcending class, color, culture, religion, race, and gender, that treats no personal preference, no physical or spiritual difference as aberration or handicap.

L: One has been born among us Who heralds such liberation. Human liberation and the liberation of all creation have taken flesh among us and in Spirit dwell with us.

R: Holy is all creation and creatures who made this happen. Blessed are we when we give birth to the Word made flesh in us.



CLOSING PRAYER:

Gracious God, teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other, You are present in Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to welcome not only the stranger in our midst but to welcome each other and the gifts that each of us brings. This is the help you have sent: we are not alone. We are together on this journey, and for this we give thanks! Amen.

