



SEASON OF CREATION
DAILY RE-COMMITMENT
TO PROTECT & HEAL GOD'S CREATION

This day I seek to renew my covenant with God
and with the web of all life.

This day I pledge anew to protect God's
wondrous gift of creation.

This day as a follower in Jesus' footprints,
I seek to tread lightly on this sacred Earth,

This day I commit myself to all humanity –
and seek to heal injustice and poverty.

This day I resolve to take a stand
against all threats to life.

This day I seek to awaken
to some new beauty in God's creation –
sunrise and sunset, moon-glow and starlight
bird, blossom, tree, and cactus
mountain reaching to the sky
scurrying lizard, trudging tortoise
the myriad forms of life in the desert.

This day I seek to listen
to the "music of the universe" –
water trickling over rocks,
sighing wind, rustling leaves,
crunching gravel, mourning dove.

This day I seek to remember always
that God speaks to me
through the beauty of creation.

This day I will answer the Creator's call
and bow in reverence to
the gift of the Universe,
in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer,
through the sanctifying Holy Spirit.

✠
AMEN



**Pray this Season of Creation
Novena during any nine day period
you select from Sep 1 to Oct 4**

God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; It
gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs --
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

—Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.

Suggested action: *Learn about the many ways you can tread
lighter on our precious Earth and live more sustainably.
Sustainability means to "meet present needs without
compromising the ability of future generations to meet their
needs." In other words: "do onto future generations as you
would have them do onto you."*

Pondering: Someday, after mastering the winds,
the waves, the tides and gravity,
we shall harness for God
the energies of love, and then,
for a second time in the history of the world,
humanity will have discovered fire. —Teilhard de Chardin



DAY 9

Reading: The environmental crisis of our own day constitutes
an exceptional call to conversion. As individuals, as
institutions, as a people, we need a change of heart to save
the planet for our children and generations yet unborn. So
vast are the problems, so intertwined with our economy and
way of life, that nothing but a wholehearted and ever more
profound turning to God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, will
allow us to carry out our responsibilities as faithful stewards
of God's creation.
— *Renewing the Earth, U.S. Bishops*

Suggested action: *Resolve today to start anew and to work
toward renewing the Earth!*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven
and the former earth had passed away. Rev 1:1

Pondering: Phoenix

Are you willing to be sponged out,
erased, cancelled, made nothing?
Are you willing to be made nothing?
dipped into oblivion?

If not, you will never really change.
The phoenix renews her youth
only when she is burnt, burnt alive,
burnt down to hot and flocculent ash.

Then the small stirring
of a new small bub in the nest
with strands of down like floating ash
shows that she is renewing her youth like the eagle,
immortal bird. —D.H. Lawrence

A Novena for the SEASON of CREATION



OPENING PRAYER

We hold a treasure in earthen vessels. 2 Cor 4:7

*We are called to see ourselves and each other as earthen
vessels that hold God's presence and bring God's gifts to
the world. So, too, this very world and all that is above,
around and within it are Earthen Vessels — just as easily
shattered, just as much in need of our reverence, loving
attentiveness, and protection. We and all creation are
God's earthen vessels. Help us O loving Creator to live
and act in harmony and solidarity with all creation.¹*

For where your treasure is, there your heart is also. Mt 6:21



DAY 1

Reading: [Gen 1:1-5] In the beginning when God created
the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless
wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty
wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be
light," and there was light. God saw how good the light
was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God
called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."
Thus evening came, and morning followed — the first day.

Suggested action: *meditate for some time in complete
darkness, then strike a match and light a candle. Reflect
on this as a metaphor of God's creative act.*

For the Light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness grasps it not. Jn 1:5

Pondering: *In what ways does the world's darkness fail to
grasp the wisdom of an interconnected Universe. How can
the Light of Christ illuminate this darkness?*

¹ Opening prayer from www.sistersofmercy.org whose Earth Day Novena
inspired this adaptation by K. K. Hirschboeck



DAY 2

Reading: [Gen 1:6-8] Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed – the second day.

Suggested action: Pay particular attention to the sky today – its varied hues, its loftiness, its broad expanse, its silent overarching presence in the busy-ness of our everyday lives.

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the sky proclaims its builder's craft. Ps 19:2

Pondering: How does the sky – which embraces the whole globe – speak to us of solidarity and being "interconnected" ?



DAY 3

Reading: [Gen 1:9-13] Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed – the third day.

Suggested action: In your mind's eye, imagine the footprints left by Jesus as he walked the deserts, seashores, and hillsides of the Holy Land. Today try to lessen the impact of your own footprint on our fragile Earth.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Jn 15:5

Pondering: In what ways are we intertwined with Jesus in our mission of "caring for our common home" ? How can we be more fruitful in this quest?



DAY 4

Reading: [Gen 1:14-19] Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed – the fourth day.

Suggested action: Learn something new about solar energy and other renewable energy sources today. Spend some time outdoors being thankful for the energy of the sun - God's gift.

Be praised, my Lord, . . . through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him. And
he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness. –St Francis

Pondering: How can we be "little suns" that radiate God's love and care to a wounded world?



DAY 5

Reading: [Gen 1:20-23] Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came, and morning followed – the fifth day.

Suggested action: Pay particular attention to birds today – on the ground, in the trees, flying. Listen to their songs, hymns of celebration of life. Reflect on the vulnerability of these small creatures and marvel at the care God has for each and every one of them. Lean about the vulnerability of so many other species on our planet because of habitat loss.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Mt 10:29

Pondering: Why is the Holy Spirit portrayed as a dove? Jesus said "I have longed to gather [you] together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" Lk13:34 Do these two bird images of God give you any insights about who God is and how God cares for all creation?



DAY 6

Reading: [Gen 1:14-31] Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created humankind in his image; in the divine image he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your

food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened.

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed – the sixth day.

Suggested action: Make it a prayer today to look with love at "everything he has made" – including your own image in the mirror; made in the divine image! Find it very good!

When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place – What are humans that you are mindful of them, mere mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them little less than a god, crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them rule over the works of your hands, put all things at their feet:
All sheep and oxen, even the beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth! Ps 8:4-10

Pondering: What a tremendous responsibility we have been entrusted with as caretakers of God's Creation! What graces and knowledge do we need in order to embrace this responsibility?



DAY 7

Reading: [Gen 2:1-3] Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

Suggested action: Bless this seventh day by resting for a time in a special, sacred place in nature that speaks to you. Bless your holy place – and sprinkle it with holy water if you wish – as a symbol of God's original blessing on our Earth.

God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.

The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. Gen 2:8,15

Pondering: Material goods and the way we are developing the use of them should be seen as God's gifts to us. They are meant to bring out in each one of us the image of God. We must never lose sight of how we have been created: from the earth and from the breath of God. –On Social Concern (Donders translation), #29



Day 8

Reading: The whole human race suffers as a result of environmental blight, and generations yet unborn will bear the cost for our failure to act today. But in most countries today, including our own, it is the poor and the powerless who most directly bear the burden of current environmental carelessness.

–Renewing the Earth, U.S. Bishops