



## 2020 Anniversaries of Earth Day and Laudato Si

### Call to Prayer

This year, 2020, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the 5th Anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, Laudato Si. Both anniversaries call us to focus our attention and care on our common home, Earth, and to make meaningful and sustainable responses to her suffering. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action. The Climate crisis, which we now face, is characterized by a dramatic rise in global temperatures, rising and warming seas, droughts, famines, and the forced migration of many people who already live on the margins of society.

The anniversaries of Earth Day and Laudato Si summon us to gather, reflect, and recommit ourselves to the Care of Earth, our Common Home. How will our individual and collective choices and actions communicate our recognition of God, whose Ancient Love gave birth to the Universe and to Earth, our beloved home?

### A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.  
– Pope Francis

### Readings: (Read aloud by different voices with pauses in between)

*“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*  
— Jane Goodall

***“The earth is what we all have in common.” – Wendell Berry***

*“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together ... all things connect.”* — Chief Seattle

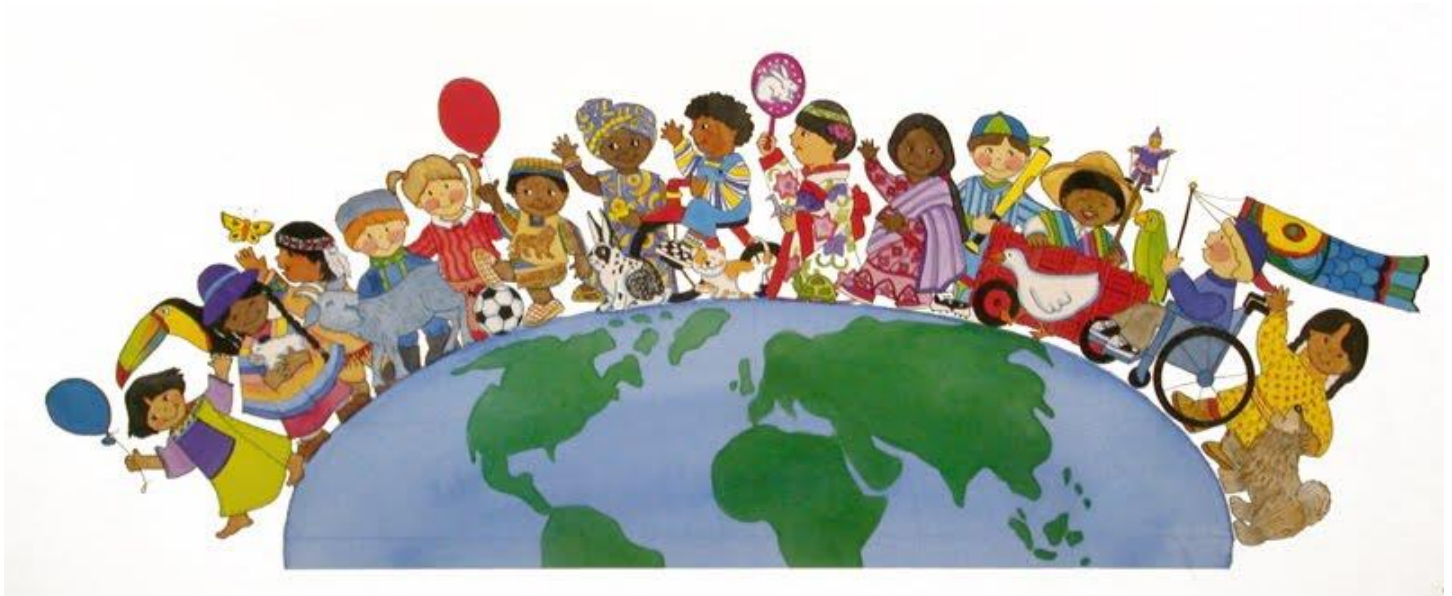
***“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”*** — Franklin D. Roosevelt

*“Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God.”* — Meister Eckhart

## Reflection - Sharing and Response

Which of these quotes are especially meaningful to you?

Is there another quote that you would like to share?



## Closing Prayer

May we use the world's resources we need with love, humility, and thoughtfulness, without guilt, without fear, without waste. **All: May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we live together with animals with which we share this planet, being careful not to harm them or their habitats. **All: May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we respect the life in our lakes, rivers and oceans, using them with care and being mindful in our efforts not to pollute them. **All: May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we learn to live within our means, by reducing our waste and continuing to reuse and recycle all that we can. **All: May we live in harmony with the earth**

May we plan to leave the world in a state that all future generations will be able to enjoy, ensuring that it is filled with resources, life, and kept healthy and clean.

**All: May we live in harmony with the earth**

Lord, Creator of all living things, Help guide our daily actions and thoughts to become better stewards of the earth. Guide us to act responsibly, care for the earth you gave us, and make wise choices in our everyday living.

**All: Peace be to this community.  
Peace be to this land.  
Peace be to all people.  
Amen.**

**Catholic Climate Covenant    School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Toronto Catholic School District Board    Mercy Justice Circle**