

## Prayer to Care for Our Common Home

Father of all,  
Creator and ruler of the universe,  
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.  
Help us to care for it and all people,  
that we may live in right relationship--  
with You,  
with ourselves,  
with one another,  
and with creation.



Christ our Lord, both divine and human,  
You lived among us and died for our sins.  
Help us to imitate your love for the human family  
by recognizing that we are all connected—  
to our brothers and sisters around the world,  
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,  
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love,  
You breathe life in us and guide us.  
Help us to live according to your vision,  
stirring to action the hearts of all—  
individuals and families, communities of faith,  
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home. Amen.

~ The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops based on  
Pope Francis' *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.



***“Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colors.”***

~ From the Canticle of Creation



***“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”***  
~ Albert Einstein

***“To protect the environment, and to safeguard natural resources and the climate, there is a need to act in accordance with clearly-defined rules... while at the same time taking into due account the solidarity we owe to those living in the poorer areas of our world and to future generations.” ~ World Day of Peace Message, 2010, #7***

***“The Church has a responsibility towards creation, and she considers it her duty to exercise that responsibility in public life, in order to protect earth, water and air as gifts of God the Creator meant for everyone, and above all to save mankind from the danger of self-destruction.” ~ World Day of Peace Message, 2010, #12***



**How do you honor the gifts of earth, water and air from our Creator God?  
In what ways can you decrease the destruction of Sister Mother Earth?**



***“The environment is where we all meet;  
where all have a mutual interest;  
it is the one thing all of us share.”  
~ Lady Bird Johnson***



**This year also marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the much anticipated encyclical, *Laudato Si*; which marked a timely and important turning point in the global conversation about the state of our common home. I invite you to read or re-read the document in the light of this global pandemic we are all experiencing. See what new insights or thoughts come up for you.**

***I urgently appeal ... for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.***

***We require a new and universal solidarity. As the bishops of Southern Africa have stated: “Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s creation”. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. ~ Laudato Si, #14***



## Your Weekly Question to Ponder



**Meditate on your part as an “instrument of God for the care of creation.” What does this look like in your life? How do your cultural experiences, gifts and talents play into being an instrument of God for the care of creation?**

Please feel free to share your thoughts and insights with me at [ctownes26 @ gmail.com](mailto:ctownes26@gmail.com). Use “**Creation 3, 2, 1**” as the subject line. I would love to hear how you are making a difference for Sister Mother Earth.



Thank you for making a difference.  
Feel free to share this **Creation 3, 2, 1** with friends and family.