

Earth Day 2019
The Amazon and New Paths
for Integral Ecology



Leader: Introduction

Pope Francis has called for a Synod on the Amazon in October 2019. The church is preparing for this Synod with resources from Pan-Amazonian experts, Indigenous Peoples.

Please watch this brief video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-o-pCaJ7GY>

Opening Prayer: All

Creator God, You have blessed us with an abundant creation with much diversity and wondrous beauty. We have sundered many relations. At this time in Earth's journey we have especially forgotten how the Amazon region, traversing many countries is in peril: her waters, her creatures, her Indigenous Peoples. We know that this place is the lungs of the planet, we cannot afford any more devastation of her Being. Be with us now as we seek to honour Your creation and pray to see ways we may contribute to its healing and flourishing once more.

This we ask in the name of Jesus our Brother. Amen

Opening Song: By Breath~ Sara Thomsen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HqOJiJRKMM>

Reader: The Amazon

It accounts for more than half of the planet's remaining rainforest and is home to more than half the world's species of plants and animals.

But over the last 40 years, this great verdant tract has been increasingly threatened by deforestation. Clearing of the forest began in the 1960s and reached a peak in the 90s when an area the size of Spain was cleared, primarily to make space for cattle and soybean production.

But this felling also has an impact on the planet as a whole because the forest also plays a critical role in cleaning the air we breathe.

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Without this “carbon sink” the world’s ability to lock up carbon will be reduced, compounding the effects of global warming.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130226-amazon-lungs-of-the-planet>

Leader:

Let us, for a moment recollect the beauty, peace and wonder of all creation.....

How precious is our Earth.....

Scripture Reading: Daniel 4: 10 - 12

There was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living beings were fed.

Psalm 148 All Response: Praise Our Creator!

Right: Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Left: Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Right: Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Left: Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

All: All Response: Praise Our Creator!

Reader: *Pope Francis writes in Laudato Si' :*
Integral Ecology - Cultural Ecology

In this sense, it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions.

They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values.

LS 146

Reader: *Statement from the testimony of indigenous leaders*

“Good living is the abundance of life, and harmony between brothers and sisters . . .
Finding the light inside each human being.
Exchanging ‘I’ for ‘us’ .”

Scripture: John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing....

Leader: What is the feeling in your heart?

Take a few moments of reflection..

Leader: Share a word or phrase with the person next to you about your hopes for all creation and all peoples....

Intercessions:

Response: For the peace of all Earth

That we may grow in our understanding of the integrity of all creation R

For the courage to speak up for the Amazon and her peoples R

For the commitment to pray for the healing of human hearts that wanton destruction of Earth’s living systems R

We pray for the Spirit to be with all those preparing for the Vatican Synod on the Amazon in October of this year R

For our world leaders that they will commit to an end to global climate change R

As Canada is now warming twice as fast as the rest of the world due to our northern ice melt, may we in our congregations make concrete decisions, plans and actions to reduce and reverse this trend R

Your spontaneous intercessions....

All ~Let us pray the “Maori Our Father”

(the Our Father was translated into Maori and then was translated back into English)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one
another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.

Amen.

Leader:

May we go in the peace of all God's Earth and commit to bringing the light of Hope and Life
to all creation. Amen!

Closing Song: *One Heart One Soul ~ Monica Brown*

CD "A Heart's Journey"

One heart one soul

Fashion in us O God

One heart one soul

Fill us with your own love

United as one in yo

One heart one soul

Resources Next Page

Earth Day Prayer 2019

Prepared for the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada

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Credits

By Breath -Sara Thomsen 2003

Global Catholic Climate Movement: Resources

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/earth-day-2019/>

Unsplash: Photos for Everyone <https://unsplash.com/explore>

St. Francis Climate Covenant <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

CBC:<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/canada-is-warming-twice-as-fast-as-the-rest-of-the-world-climate-change-report-says/>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130226-amazon-lungs-of-the-planet>

Google Images

Laudato Si

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

