



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

**CELEBRATION GUIDE
TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**



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Introduction

Welcome!

Welcome to this year's Season of Creation. Thank you for bringing your community together for this special season of ecumenical solidarity.

Each year from **September 1 to October 4**, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is **"To hope and act with Creation"**. Amid the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer from eco-anxiety. As people of faith we are called to lift the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action but one embodied in concrete actions of prayer and preaching, service and solidarity.

This season, we are also uniting our Christian voices through a joint advocacy initiative to support the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) which calls for a halt to new fossil fuel projects.

This guide will help you learn about and plan for this season. It includes ideas for prayer, including an ecumenical prayer service ([see Addendum 1](#)) and ways to incorporate and reflect on this year's theme and symbol. In addition, it offers ways to participate in this year's joint advocacy initiative to support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty which calls for a halt to new fossil fuel projects (see more at fossilfuel treaty.org).

More resources, including webinars and prayer services, sample promotional materials, and the official Season of Creation social media channels, are available online. Please visit SeasonOfCreation.org to access all the materials.

We look forward to praying, celebrating, and advocating together in hope and action with Creation this Season!

In Christ,

Season of Creation Ecumenical Steering Committee Members





Ecumenical faith leaders invitation

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

The season's "Celebration" begins September 1, the Feast of Creation, and ends October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year we will unite around the theme "To hope and act with Creation" with the symbol "The firstfruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25. Ecumenical faith leaders from across the world have prepared a special invitation for you and your community to take part in this season which you can watch [here](#).

Many have also shared their reflections to inspire our ecumenical family in this journey forward, as Christians everywhere prepare to witness the hope and action working together with and for Creation. As a powerful statement to the importance of this ecumenical season of prayer and action for Creation, here are the words from faith leaders of our Christian family summoning us to this special season:



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“Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident. No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone. [...] I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful.”

His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, Roman Catholic Church



“It was 35 years ago that our venerable predecessor, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, issued the very first encyclical inviting all people of goodwill to dedicate September 1 as a special day of prayer for the preservation of the natural environment. (...) Today, across the planet, numerous Christian churches and faithful recognize this celebration as the World Day of Prayer for Creation or the Feast of Creation.

This sense of ecumenical conviction and Christian unity is paramount not only because we have been commanded by our Lord ‘that we may be one’ (John 17:21), but also because we cannot and should not hope to address climate change without working closely with one another. As we have repeatedly stated, ‘we are all in the same boat.’ Creation care is a collective mandate and responsibility.”

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Holy Orthodox Church



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“In the face of the climate crisis, protecting God’s Creation is a spiritual imperative for Christians throughout the global Church. The Season of Creation has inspired us to come together in prayer and action – to safeguard, sustain and renew the life of the Earth. That is why, inspired by the Orthodox Church’s leadership, the Anglican Communion enthusiastically supports this ecumenical season. I encourage Anglicans around the world to pray for the unity of the Church, as we follow Christ’s call to protect and renew what God has entrusted to us.”

Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Anglican Communion



“At our 13th General Assembly in Krakow (September 2023), the Lutheran World Federation affirmed that as churches in ongoing reformation, we are called to work for peace in the world: between people, countries, and with the whole of creation. The relentless rise in global temperatures has meant loss of biodiversity, lives, livelihoods, and whole communities. Creation cries out in suffering. We acknowledge the urgent call to action, and we acknowledge that we can only respond to it on the basis of faith. The Season of Creation is a source of strength and communion, encouraging us truly ‘to hope and act with creation.’”

Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt, Lutheran World Federation General Secretary.
Photo: LWF/A. Danielsson



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“The World Methodist Council in 2016 commended the celebration of a ‘Time for Creation’ from 1st September to 4th October, first observed by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, now welcomed by concerned Christians across the world. This is the time to confess that we are prodigal sons and daughters coming home after such a long devastation of sky and land. Our ecological homecoming is our ‘walking together’ (syn-hodos) with Mother Earth through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. We have entered a new Kairos

for the ecumenical Spring of renewing for the Synodal Church, anticipating as far as possible, the logic of the new heavens and new earth toward which we are on the move. Let’s celebrate with St. Paul the Spirit’s role as midwife through the threefold ‘cosmotheandric’ sequence of the holy groaning of creation as Mother Earth, of the Spirit as midwife, and of believers as the adopted children of God!”

Rev. Dr. Jong Chun J.C. Park, World Methodist Council President



“Climate change and disasters are already upon us. The planet is in trouble and ‘creation is groaning’ as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8. In the midst of this, we are called to be responsible stewards and citizens as we care for and sustain the earth which belongs to the Lord. This is hope in action as we pray and yearn for a better and safer world for all people and creation. We each need to do our part for creation care.”

Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary, World Council of Churches



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“We should not disappoint the Creator by spoiling His creation, with which He entrusted us from the dawn of the times and keeps protecting us from ourselves. We have to say STOP somewhere to the damage we are inflicting on purpose to the creation, blinded by our greed and lust for profit. We, who are aware of the gravity of the issue, should raise our voice in a relentless attempt to spread this awareness

and make it become a part of the daily culture and pattern of behavior of individuals as well as business enterprises. A paradigm shift is of utmost necessity.”

Prof. Michel Abs, Secretary General, the Middle East Council of Churches



“We must shift away from fossil fuels and move towards renewable energy in a fair and organised way. Our faith calls us to support vulnerable communities who are most affected by the climate crisis.”

Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance



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“The Ecumenical Patriarchate first launched a day of prayer for creation in 1989. Since then, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has passionately and patiently advocated for the protection of creation, echoing creation’s “eager longing” and humanity’s “patient hope” (Romans 8:19.25). Listening and responding to the cry of creation is no longer a luxury, a trend, or an agenda. It is essential to the sustainability of our planet and the prosperity of its inhabitants.”

Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, Executive Director, Huffington Ecumenical Institute at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology



“The Season of Creation is such a good way for your church to engage with caring for God’s world. Do sign up. Make the most of the resources. And let’s worship and take action because together we can make a difference.”

Dr. Ruth Valerio, Director Global Advocacy and Influencing, Tearfund





“In this Season of Creation, I urge all Christians everywhere to take practical steps by taking care of the environment, conserving natural resources and promoting sustainability to protect the Earth. I call on all Christians to join this Season of Creation, working with a renewed hope, as Creation eagerly awaits for the revealing of the children of God.”

Seth Appiah-Kubi, National Director, A Rocha Ghana



Caring for our common home is not just an environmentalist or technocratic cause, but a more holistic, integral, human, spiritual vision, as well as a matter of integral ecology. Through prayer, practical advocacy, and sustainable actions, this 2024 Season of Creation can prophetically renew our ecumenical unity and care for our common home. We invite you to join this special season and be part of this mighty movement to bring about the firstfruits of hope.

May we journey together in communion as the People of God to honor our Christian call to care for God’s Creation!



Members of the **Season of Creation** Advisory Committee:

Bishop Marc Andrus, Anglican Church, Episcopal Diocese of California

*Rev. Dr. Dave Bookless, Head of Theology, A Rocha International, Lausanne Global
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Prior of Taizé



Season of Creation 2024

Theme and Symbol

Each year, the Season of Creation Ecumenical Steering Committee proposes a theme for the Season of Creation.

The theme for 2024 is “To hope and act with Creation” and the symbol is “The firstfruits of hope”, inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

A special note about this year’s theme: We have decided to capitalize Creation for several reasons. Our theme this year emphasizes that Creation is not an object that has been created for human use, but rather a subject that we are called to relate to and collaborate with as fellow creatures. By capitalizing Creation, we refer to both the created order and the mystery of God’s continuing act of creation. We acknowledge the whole created order, or the whole cosmos, including all living and non-living parts of God’s Creation, showing our theological respect, reverence, accountability, and interdependence with the natural world.

In this section of the guide, we offer the theological foundations for this year’s theme and symbol. Some talking points can be found in [Addendum 3](#) for further reflection.

Creation is groaning in the pains of childbirth (Romans 8:22)

This biblical image pictures the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. Saint Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his *Canticle of Creatures*. How can Mother Earth look after us if we do not look after her? Creation is groaning because of our selfishness and the unsustainable actions that harm her.

Along with our Sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of the consequences of our destructive actions causing climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering as well as Creation’s suffering. And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life is coming forth.



Creation is standing on tiptoe waiting for the children of God to be revealed (Romans 8:19)

Creation and all of us are called to worship the Creator, working together for a future of active hope and action. Only when we work together with Creation can the firstfruits of hope be born. Pauline theology reminds us that both Creation and humanity are conceived from the beginning in Christ and, therefore, are entrusted to each other.

Creation is standing on tiptoe waiting for the manifestation of the children of God! The children of God are those who stretch up their hands towards the Creator, recognizing themselves as humble creatures, to praise and respect God, and at the same time to love, respect, care for, and learn from God's gift of Creation. Creation is not given to humanity to use and abuse, rather, humanity is created as part of Creation. More than a common home, Creation is also a cosmic family that calls us to act responsibly. This is how the children of God have an intrinsic vocation and an important role to play in the manifestation of the kingdom of justice (cf. Romans 8:19).

Firstfruits of hope (Romans 8:23-25)

Hope is an instrument enabling us to overcome the natural law of decay. Hope is given to us by God as a protection and guard against futility. Only through hope we may realize the gift of freedom in fullness. Freedom to act not only to achieve enjoyment and prosperity but to reach the stage in which we are free and responsible. Freedom and responsibility enable us to make the world a better place.

We act for a better future because we know Christ has overcome the death caused by our sins. There is a lot of pain on Earth because of our shortcomings. Our structural and ecological sins inflict pain on Earth and all creatures, including ourselves. We know that we have caused a lot of damage to Creation, and to the world we are living in because of our negligence, because of ignorance, but as well, in many cases, because of our unrelenting wish to satisfy unrealistic selfish dreams (cf. Romans 8:22).

There's a phrase commonly attributed to Saint Augustine that says: "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are." As we



witness the cries and sufferings of Earth and all creatures, let holy anger move us toward the courage to be hopeful and active for justice. We believe that the incarnation of God's Son offers guidance enabling us to face the troubling world. God is with us in efforts to respond to the challenges of the world we are living in (cf. Romans 8:23).

There are different forms of hope. However, hope is not merely optimism. It is not a utopian illusion. It is not waiting for a magical miracle. Hope is trust that our action makes sense, even if the results of this action are not immediately seen (cf. Romans 8:24). Hope doesn't act alone. Earlier in his letter to the Romans, Paul the apostle explains the close relationship of hope as a growth process: "endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5:4). Patience and endurance are close associates of hope. These are qualities that lead to hope.

We know how much bold action to restrain the climate and ecological crises is urgent, and we also know that ecological conversion is a slow process as humans are stubborn to change their minds, their hearts, and their ways of living. Sometimes we don't know what our actions should look like. As we journey in life, everyday we get new ideas and inspirations to find a better balance between the urgency and the slow rhythm of long-lasting change. We might not fully comprehend all that is happening, we might not understand the ways of God, but we are called to trust and follow with concrete and sustained actions, following the example of Christ, the redeemer of the whole cosmos (cf. Romans 8:25).

In some languages, the translation of the Pauline passage expresses that hope is not a passive waiting but rather an active hope (cf. Romans 8:20-21). There is much we can learn from other cultures and countries on how to hope and act together with Creation. The Portuguese verb "esperançar", as well as the Spanish "esperanzar", express well that hope must be understood as an active verb to avoid falling into the trap of superficial positivity. In French, there are also two different ways to speak about this notion: "espoir", which evokes the attitude of waiting, and "espérance" which expresses the active hope in the light of God. The same nuance appears in the Arabic language which distinguishes between "amal (أمل)" and "raja' (رجاء)", showing how there is much more to reflect about what we mean when we speak about "hope".



Season of Creation 2024 Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Ideas to celebrate the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all Creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. It is an annual ecumenical season where we pray and act together as a Christian family for our common home.

We are called to engage in the Season of Creation starting early in the year so that we can build a year-long process of preparation for the celebration that takes place later in the year.

As you prepare for the Season of Creation, remember that rather than events we are building encounters, to cultivate listening in the spirit of ecumenism, engaging in prophetic action for our common home and strengthened by eco-spirituality to commit and follow up on our responsibilities as co-creatures and carers with Creation.

There are many different ways to celebrate the season. The ecumenical Season of Creation network has suggested a few ideas, which are available below. Be sure to visit SeasonofCreation.org for more ideas and campaigns.



Begin by celebrating the “Feast of Creation” of September 1 on Sunday

The Feast of Creation of September 1, also known as Creation Day or World Day of Prayer for Creation, is the big celebration that inspires and nourishes the larger season that flows from it. Inspired by a rich tradition of the Orthodox Church, it was later embraced by most other churches. Besides being a moment to repent for our sinful desecration of the gift of Creation and pray for its healing, the feast honors God as Creator and commemorates the great mystery of the creation of the cosmos (learn more about the feast’s [history and symbolism](#)). In other words, it is not just about celebrating “Creation as the created world” that God gifted us, but most importantly it is about celebrating “Creation as foundational mystery” of our Christian faith. In a nutshell, it is a moment to thank and praise God as Creator.

This year, September 1 happens to fall on a Sunday, so it is a very special occasion to encourage your church or community to include the feast and mystery of Creation in the Sunday celebration. It is worth reminding the community about Sunday’s dual symbolism as both “the day of creation” (“the first day of the week” when God began the creative act, as per Genesis 1) and “the day of the resurrection”.

Some ideas to consider (you can pick one or a combination):

During the Sunday Eucharist:

- Hold the service outdoors, in the sacred “Cathedral of Creation”.
- Before you begin, read an excerpt of a message from church leadership (e.g. Creation Day annual messages from leaders as the [Ecumenical Patriarch](#) and the Pope) or any other document that might be most relevant in your confessional tradition, to help contextualize the importance of the day.
- During the Penitential Act (also known as Prayer of Confession), express lament for the ecological crisis and repentance for our sins against God’s Creation.
- If outdoors, include at least one moment of silence to contemplate the “hymns of praise” of other creatures.
- Bring Creation into the celebration through other gestures; e.g. including symbols from nature to be taken to the altar alongside bread and wine as part of the offertory.
- Encourage your priest or pastor to include references to the Feast of Creation and the mystery of God as Creator in the homily; sermon notes in English based on the Revised Common Lectionary can be found [here](#).
- During the intercessory prayers (also known as Prayers of the Faithful), include at least one prayer intention referring to the Feast of Creation.



Other suggestions before (or after) the Sunday Eucharist:

- Work with children or youth to set up an artistic “Creation Scene” symbolizing God’s creation of the world, as an opportunity to teach about this important theme; consider placing it in a visible place in or near the church.
- Have a look at some of the spiritual and liturgical resources on the [Season of Creation website](#), especially in the denominational pages found there as well.
- Pray the [Vespers service](#) (evening prayer) of the Orthodox Church for September 1 (available in English only).

Host an ecumenical prayer service

Hosting a prayer service is a simple and beautiful way to celebrate the season. While a prayer service that stays within your church community is welcomed, this season offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with Christians outside of your denomination or network. An ecumenical prayer service developed for the Season of Creation 2024 can be found in [Addendum 1](#) and on the Season of Creation website.

If interested, contact local Christian communities of denominations different from your own, and ask the clergy or justice coordinator whether he/she would like to collaborate in co-hosting a prayer service for the Season of Creation. If you send an email, be sure to share a link to the Season of Creation [website](#) and to include information about the season.

In light of this year’s theme, see how you might intentionally include the needs and participation of groups and individuals in your community that work with social justice, peace-building, or on issues that acknowledge the need for joint collective action in a healthy relationship with Earth, such as the Indigenous wisdom of *sumak kawsay* (buen vivir) or the African wisdom of *ubuntu*. You might also consider taking up a donation collection to support a particular issue.

Ask all participating communities to advertise and promote the service. Broadcasting information via social media, print and web media will ensure good attendance and lead to a diverse, dynamic celebration. Sample promotional materials and other helpful resources are on the [official website](#). Appoint either one clergy person or a group of clergy people from participating churches to lead the prayer service.

¹ As affirmed for example by St. Justin Martyr (First Apology, 67) and St. Gregory the Great (Primo die quo Trinitas, 1).



Hold your worship service in the sacred “Cathedral of Creation”

“If ‘the universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely... there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face’. The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?” His Holiness Pope Francis

To celebrate God’s creation fully, it is good, where practical, to take our worship outside a building and to worship in the context of God’s creation – which is already worshipping God eloquently as every creature, and even mountains, rivers and trees worship the Lord simply by doing what God created them to do. You might like to consider a site of environmental significance. If it is a place of great natural beauty, the focus would be on giving thanks to God and committing ourselves to protecting the site and others. If it is a place of environmental degradation, the focus is on confessing our environmental sins and lamenting the voices of co-creatures who have been lost, and committing to actions of healing and restoration.

Depending on your style of worship and the weather, consider an informal service or brief Eucharist that incorporates the [ecumenical prayer service in Addendum 1](#) offered in this Celebration Guide, or other Creation-centered liturgies.

For your offering, ask children and adults to gather symbols from nature and take them to the holy table. These symbols can represent the “fruit of the earth and work of human hands” alongside the bread and wine, and serve as a reminder of the voices of all Creation that join in the feast.

Include a moment of silence to listen to Creation, and wordlessly join in with the song of Creation’s worship. Or play sounds of nature in the place of singing as you come to the table.

In place of the sermon, you may divide into groups for a short Bible study.



Organize a creation walk or pilgrimage

"If we are guilty of relentless waste, it is because we have lost the spirit of worship. We are no longer respectful pilgrims on this earth; we have been reduced to careless consumers or passing travelers." His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Organize a contemplative walk outside to reflect on the gift of God's creation and our response to be in deeper communion with all life. Organize a pilgrimage to a significant ecological site or a site that witnesses ecological or social injustice. Invite a group to study ecologically-themed Scriptures, or pray with ecologically themed prayers such the ones suggested in the [Season of Creation resources webpage](#), while walking. Your pilgrimage could also culminate in a prayer service.

Coordinate local education and sustainability activities

"As people of faith, we don't just state our beliefs — we live them out. One belief is that we find purpose and joy in loving our neighbors. Another is that we are charged by our creator with taking good care of his creation. The moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose and joy, and to respond to our creator's charge. Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith." Most Revd Justin Welby

It is important to emphasize the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and, to do so, activities of education, awareness, and practical action are key to help communities. These type of activities are crucial to help emphasize the need to review our lifestyles, our way of living and consuming, to recognize our consumerist lifestyles that lead to the depletion of the planet's resources.

There are a number of concrete things you can do in your community to hope and act with Creation. In previous years communities have held clean ups, tree plantings, instituted recycling initiatives or supported community gardens. You can also host education events such as film screenings or public dialogues or art events such as essay and drawing contests or concerts.



Incorporate the symbol of the firstfruits of hope in your events

We have prepared some helpful ideas for activities and crafts with the symbol of the firstfruits of hope for your Season of Creation preparation journey which you are welcome to use and adapt from [the Addendum 2 at the end of this celebration guide](#). These ideas on how to incorporate the firstfruits symbol are also invitations to engage your faith community and reflect on how the symbol this year inspires unity for hope and action.

You are also encouraged to download the [logo of the Season of Creation](#) and [this year's symbol](#) for use in your materials and activities.

Share your experience

Photos and videos

Be sure to take photos of your community in action. Your photos will be shared with people around the world and could inspire prayers and action to protect Creation (kindly ask consent to share people's images, and refrain from closeups of children without parent/guardian permission). Your photos will show up at SeasonOfCreation.org if you use the hashtag #SeasonOfCreation

Social media and blogs

- Post images and stories while you plan and during your celebration. Be sure to tag your post or tweet with [#SeasonOfCreation](#), and it will appear on the Season of Creation website.
- Follow the official channels of Season of Creation on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter) and share your experiences. Don't forget to also subscribe to the Season of Creation [YouTube channel](#).
- Write a blog post about your community's Season of Creation celebration and include [#SeasonOfCreation](#) so it can be easily found.



Advocacy: Participate in campaigns to reduce fossil fuel use

Preserving Creation requires action

“Creation is groaning” (Romans 8:22). Daily, weekly, and monthly we see, sense, and hear about Creation’s suffering. Humanity extracts and uses the bountiful resources of our Mother, the Earth, primarily for human greed rather than human needs, and with too little regard for the impact on all creatures and biodiversity. These unsustainable actions have led to the current climate crisis and loss of biodiversity while increasing human suffering.

One clear example is the impact of fossil fuel extraction and use on the climate. Whether it is the smoke of burning arboreal forests or tundra, the unrelenting impact of superstorms in the Pacific Ocean, or the years-long drought in the Horn of Africa, the Earth, and the bounty it produces is diminishing due to massive changes in our climate. It’s estimated that thirty percent of the greenhouse gases that are impacting the climate are created by fossil fuel extraction and use.

Signs of hope for Creation

The Season of Creation empowers communities at a local level and prepares us for action at the global level, particularly the annual United Nations climate conferences. This is where 182 countries come together to commit to actions such as reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, at the 28th meeting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (Conference of the Parties, COP28), the need to reduce fossil fuel use made it onto the agenda for the first time ever and was agreed to.



More is needed. The agreement was weak and did not set the targets needed to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. We need a stronger agreement if we are to have any chance of preserving biodiversity and life on Earth. Reducing fossil fuel extraction and use, sometimes called a fossil fuel phase-out, will be on the agenda again at this year's climate conference, COP29. It is often linked to a just transition so that the phase-out is implemented in as fair a way as possible. This is meant to ensure that lesser-developed countries have a chance to catch up economically, while wealthier countries start to pull back meaningfully on fossil fuel use and extraction. By engaging with the range of actions outlined below you can support the cry for a stronger phase-out.

Join us: Support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

This year the Season of Creation encourages parishes and faith groups to engage with the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). The Treaty brings together nations, civil society, and faith groups to reduce fossil fuel use. According to their website, "The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to renewable energy for everyone, end the expansion of coal, oil, and gas, and equitably phase out existing production in keeping with what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis."

21 September is scheduled as the global day of action for individuals, communities, organizations, and all levels of government to endorse the Treaty. All signatures will be used to influence decision-makers at the next UN conference on climate change, COP29, scheduled for November 2024 in Azerbaijan.

As a member of a parish or faith group you are invited to approach your faith leaders and let them know of the Treaty and how to support it. Encourage knowledgeable faith leaders to approach political leaders for their endorsement. Faith leaders and church communities can endorse FFNPT through the Faith Letter, available at fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter.

Please see the advocacy activity guidelines available in the [Season of Creation website](#) for the range of actions you and your faith group can take to support the global phase-out of fossil fuels. It all makes a difference. Your actions can help keep global warming at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius, preserve biodiversity, and honor God's Creation.



What we can do

By exercising our prophetic call to speak truth to power, we grow in love and strength as we help bring about the firstfruits of hope for Creation. A detailed guide for advocacy activities and helpful tools will be available on the [resources page](#) of [SeasonOfCreation.org](#). Below are ideas on how you can advocate for a just energy transition and support the FFNPT:

- Raise awareness

To help people of faith understand the need to phase out fossil fuels and engage in the campaign for the FFNPT, raising awareness is crucial. Communities are encouraged to hold talks and sign-up events to help people understand what FFNPT is and to call on faith leaders to sign.

Use the tools provided in the advocacy activity guidelines available on the resources page of [SeasonOfCreation.org](#) and by checking the [FFNPT website](#).

- Participate in the Season of Creation global day of action: 21 September

Communities are encouraged to hold and participate in events to call on political leaders to sign the FFNPT.

Plan and prepare prayer services, public actions, or vigils by faith communities, or activities with faith leaders calling on political leaders to sign the Treaty.

- Share your advocacy work

Follow the Season of Creation campaign on our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) pages, and amplify our advocacy asks on your social media channels by using #SeasonOfCreation. Using this hashtag when you publish on social media is key for your actions to be made visible on the Season of Creation website.

Please go to the [resources page](#) on the Season of Creation website to see the full advocacy activity guidelines for activities and helpful tools that can be used by your community or organization to join the Season of Creation campaign to push governments and faith leaders to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.



Global calendar of events

While each Christian community around the world celebrates the Season of Creation in its own way, a few events present opportunities to bring all communities together. You can access them through the global calendar of events on the [Season of Creation website](#) - we recommend you check it regularly, as details for each event will be updated with time.

You are particularly invited to join two online prayer services that will mark the opening and closing of the Season of Creation, and to join the day of advocacy action, as described below.

September 1: Online prayer service for the Feast of Creation

The Feast of Creation, or Creation Day, also called the Day of Prayer for Creation or World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, opens the season each year. Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Justin Welby, the World Council of Churches, and many other leaders have called the faithful to celebrate it. Globally, Christians are invited to join an online prayer service to come together in a joyful celebration of our common cause. More information will be available at [SeasonOfCreation.org](#) and on social media.

September 21: Day of advocacy action

This year we have a specific day to focus on the ecumenical common call to action on advocacy. It will be a day of action to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT). The 79th Session of the UN General Assembly will be taking place from 10 - 24 September and it is within this context that we Christians, as a global family, will raise our voices and show how faith communities can be powerful actors for justice and hope across the world. For more information, refer to the previous section of the guide on "Advocacy: Participate in campaigns to reduce fossil fuel use", or to the Advocacy section in the [resources page](#) of [SeasonOfCreation.org](#).



October 4: Saint Francis Day

Many traditions view Saint Francis as an inspiration and guide for those who protect Creation. October 4 is his feast day and the last day in the Season of Creation. The faithful around the world will come together in an online event prepared by the Season of Creation Ecumenical Youth Committee to celebrate our month-long journey together. You will find information about the event on the [Season of Creation website](#) and social media.

About the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation runs annually from September 1 through October 4. The world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for Creation during this time.

The Season of Creation unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose. It also provides flexibility in celebrating prayer services and engaging in a variety of actions to care for Creation.

History

September 1 was proclaimed as a Day of Prayer for Creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I [in 1989](#). It was embraced by other major Christian European churches [in 2001](#), and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church [in 2015](#).

In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis that is observed by some Western traditions. Saint Francis is the author of the Canticum of the Creatures, and the Catholic patron saint of those who promote ecology.



Several statements from the past few years have called the faithful to observe this month-long season, such as those of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in 2003, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007, and the World Council of Churches in 2008.

The Ecumenical Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides the resources to celebrate the season and it is comprised of the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, Laudato Si' Movement, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, the Lausanne / World Evangelical Alliance Creation Care Network, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Middle East Council of Churches, the European Christian Environmental Network, ACT Alliance, A Rocha International, World Methodist Council, and Christian Aid.

As an ecumenical network, we are inspired by the urgent call from Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, "for a new dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet" and "we require a new and universal solidarity" where the most vulnerable are supported and to enable them to live in dignity. We invite you to join us in these efforts.

We are also extremely grateful for the work of the Season of Creation Ecumenical Youth Committee.



Members of the Season of Creation Steering Committee:

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Addendum 1: Ecumenical Prayer Service

We encourage you to use this prayer service to mark the beginning and the end of the Season of Creation, at events that you host during the season, or to incorporate into your community's worship throughout the Season.

As you plan your service, consider showing "fruits or seeds" amid the prayer service to represent this year's symbol "The firstfruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25, and the community's intention "To hope and act with Creation". You may also wish to set the space with natural items that represent the diverse harvests from land or water and other "peoples" from the beloved community of Creation. You can find more concrete ideas [in Addendum 2](#) on how to incorporate this year's symbol.

*Leader parts are in regular font, **congregational responses are in bold**. Instructions or references are in italics.*

Opening words

(These opening words are a suggestion in case your prayer service needs a proper introduction to frame the celebration as part of this year's Season of Creation) Surrounded as we are with constant devastating news about climate chaos, biodiversity loss and the ever-growing mountains of pollution it is easy to fall into despair. And yet as people of faith, we have hope - the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance of what we do not yet see (cf. Hebrews 11:1).

In the words of Archbishop Tutu "Hope is being able to see that there is light - despite all the darkness."

As faith without action is dead (James 2:26) - so hope without action is meaningless and in this service, we acknowledge and lament our sense of despair, cling to our faith and hope, and commit ourselves to act with Creation for the renewal of life. We hold our prayer service today as part of the ecumenical Season of Creation, a season of prayer and action for our common home that takes place every year from September 1 to October 4. The theme for the Season of Creation this year is "To hope and act with Creation", and the symbol is "The firstfruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25.



Welcome

Blessed be the name of God, God of our ancestors, God of the generations yet to come.

Blessed be the Creating God, Redeeming Son and the Sustaining Spirit.

As we gather, we hear the groans of Creation and the cries of our sisters and brothers. As we gather, we bring our seeds of hope, the firstfruits of the Spirit.

(Rev Sikawu, Central Methodist Church, Cape Town)

Greeting and call to worship

Come, let us worship God, who gifted us with life and Creation to sustain life.
We praise God for the wondrous Creation.

Come, let us follow Lord Jesus Christ, who inspires us to hope and act for justice and righteousness.

We give glory to God, who restores the groaning Creation and the vulnerable.

Come let us move with the Holy Spirit, striving to establish justice and produce the firstfruits of hope.

We praise God for the abundant life that is assured to all Creation.

Heavenly Triune God and Creator of all, we gather here, made in the image of the Creator,

Who created in love.

We gather in the name of the redeemer, our Savior Jesus Christ,

Who reconciles all of Creation.

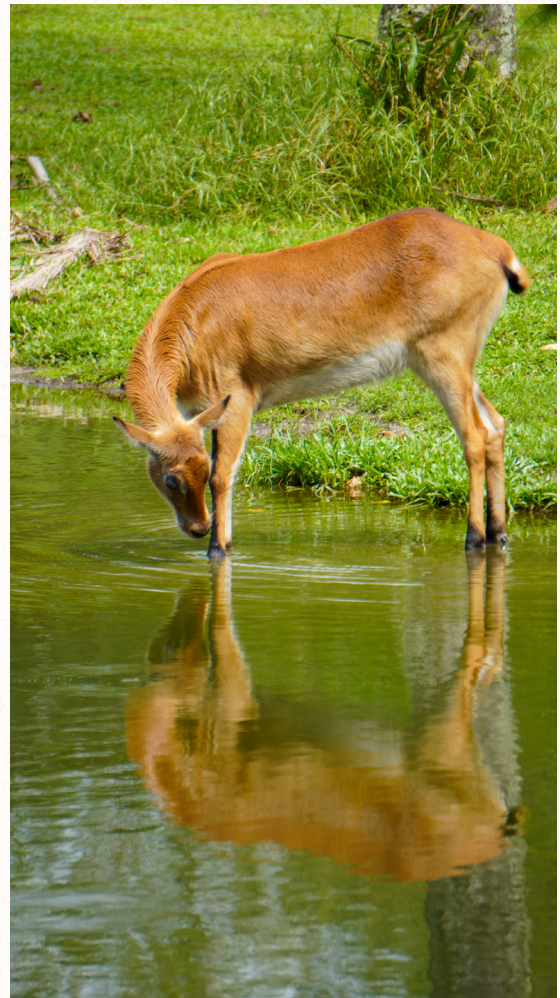
We gather in the presence of the life Giver, your Holy Spirit,

Who inspires new life and instills hope.

(World Council of Churches, Eco-School at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece, 11-18 November 2023)



Psalmody: Psalm 42
 (Bible reference: NRSVUE)
 As a deer longs for flowing streams,
 so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
 for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
 the face of God?
 My tears have been my food
 day and night,
 while people say to me continually,
 “Where is your God?”
 These things I remember,
 as I pour out my soul:
 how I went with the throng
 and led them in procession to the house
 of God,
 with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
 a multitude keeping festival.
 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
 and why are you disquieted within me?
 Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
 my help and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
 therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
 from Mount Mizar.
 Deep calls to deep
 at the thunder of your torrents;
 all your waves and your billows
 have gone over me.
By day the Lord commands his steadfast
love,
 and at night his song is with me,
 a prayer to the God of my life.
 I say to God, my rock,
 “Why have you forgotten me?



Why must I walk about mournfully
 because the enemy oppresses me?”
As with a deadly wound in my body,
 my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
 “Where is your God?”
 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
 and why are you disquieted within
 me?
 Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
 my help and my God.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and
will be forever, Amen.



Kyrie Eleison

Eternal God, the whole world is full of your glory.
We bear forth the anguish of Creation in the time of the climate crisis to you.
In your grace, grant us the opportunity to do good, as your created co-creators.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Jesus Christ, you have walked the Earth and lived in our midst.
Make us sensitive to the suffering of humankind and the entire creation.
Strengthen us in our endeavors to create a life of dignity,
in justice, and solidarity with those who live and will live.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Holy Spirit, power of courage and self-control, you speak to our consciences.
Comfort us when we suffer and are plagued by anxiety.
Make us worry when we are numb in the calmness of complacency.
Re-create us to become what we are: one humanity under the same sky.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

(Adapted from "[Prayer for the Climate](#)" from the "Bishops's Letter for the Climate" of the Church of Sweden)



Thanksgiving for the Earth

God of Holy Dreaming, great Creator Spirit, from the dawn of Creation you have given your children the good things of our mothering Earth.

You spoke and the gum tree grew.

In the vast desert and the dense forest, and in the cities and at the water's edge, Creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures at the rock at the heart of our land.

When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.

The sunrise of your Son colored the Earth anew and bathed it in glorious hope. In Jesus, we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole Creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the Earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past into the full day that has dawned in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Liturgical Resources)

A creation-themed hymn can be sung here.



Readings of Scripture followed by preaching or reflections

A short silence for reflection can be held after each reading.

First Reading – Micah 7:1-4.7

(Bible reference: NRSVUE)

Woe is me! For I have become like one who,
after the summer fruit has been gathered,
after the vintage has been gleaned,
finds no cluster to eat;
there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger.
The faithful have disappeared from the land,
and there is no one left who is upright;
they all lie in wait for blood,
and they hunt each other with nets.
Their hands are skilled to do evil;
the official and the judge ask for a bribe,
and the powerful dictate what they desire;
thus they pervert justice.
The best of them is like a brier,
the most upright of them a thorn hedge.
The day of their sentinels, of their punishment, has come;
now their confusion is at hand.
But as for me, I will look to the Lord;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.

(Alternative reading suggestion: Isaiah 40:27-31)



Second Reading – Romans 8:18–25

(Bible reference: NRSVUE)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labour, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 9:35–38

(Bible reference: NRSVUE)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

(Alternative reading suggestion: Luke 12, 22-32)



Reflection

Reflection on the theme: “To hope and act with Creation” and the symbol “The firstfruits of hope”.

A Creation-themed hymn can be included here.

The Affirmation of Faith

We have faith
in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth,
who created all things good.
And we have faith
in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear
God’s likeness in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers
for the wellbeing of life on Earth.
And we have faith
in God’s Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate life-
style.
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.
So be it. Amen.

(Adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003)

Offering and offertory prayer

You might like to have an offering, perhaps a collection for a particular project or ministry that contributes to ecological restoration, or an aspect of climate justice, or you may want to showcase local plants, or animals from your area as a way to raise awareness of the rest of your local habitats’ needs. Other ideas for the offerings can also be found in [Addendum 2](#) at the end of this guide.

A Creation-themed hymn may be sung.



Intercessory Prayers: “To hope and act with Creation”

God of the land, the sea, the sky:

Creator of all that is seen and unseen.

Open our hearts to the rhythm of Creation in the swells of the ocean, the movements of air and wind, the breath of all living things.

Open our eyes to the fragile beauty of the biodiversity of which we are a part.

Open our ears to the sounds of life around us.

Open our minds to the awareness of our deep relationship with all your Creation.

Creator God:

May we hope and act with Creation.

God of Light, Life and Love:

Help us to seek and find your presence in all Creation.

Help us to understand the roots of the ecological crisis and give us the wisdom to live resiliently in harmony with your Creation.

Keep us firm in the faith that the gift of life in all its fullness is for all Creation.

Help us to maintain hope that your reign of love is manifested in our common love for you, for ourselves, and for our neighbour - both human and non-human.

Creator God:

May we hope and act with Creation.

God of truth and justice:

Fill us with your spirit of compassion so we may live and act with and in solidarity with Creation.

Guide us in paths of righteousness that help us to tread softly on the land and sail gently on the sea.

Give us wisdom and courage to recognise our role in the evil of systemic exploitation and extraction and to speak truth to power.

Give us strength of heart and arm to be agents of the ecological conversion the world so desperately needs.

Creator God:

May we hope and act with Creation.

Amen.

(Rev. James Bagwan, Pacific Conference of Churches)



The Lord's Prayer

Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

Sharing of peace

In Christ, we are called not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

We seek to discern the will of God, to do what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let us not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve God.

We intend to live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation.

Let us strive to live peaceably with all and share a sign of peace with one another.

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Amen.

Benediction

May God who can set Creation free, show us his glory.

Glory to God.

May God who knows our groaning and crying, bring about new life.

Now and always.

May God who helps us in our weakness, give us the firstfruits of hope.

The Lord is our hope.

And may the Triune God sprinkle into our hearts the dew of his grace and bless us all.

Amen.



Addendum 2: How to incorporate the symbol in your events and celebrations

Activities

- Organise an encounter to introduce this year's Season of Creation theme and symbol. Briefly introduce and explain the theme and symbol, then dedicate a few minutes to open dialogue or small group discussions so people can share how they feel about the theme and symbol and what activities they would like to organise during the season.
- Hold a procession of the fruits of the Earth from your local community or region, inviting a diversity of people to help bring these gifts to the table: different ages, different races, different genders.
- Organise an activity where participants are invited to create a short skit based on Romans 8:19-25. Reflect on how there can be different ways to represent the groans of the Earth and firstfruits of the Spirit as hope.
- As you use the liturgical resources in the Season of Creation Celebration Guide, you could also organise a moment of prayer to recall our ancestors of faith and those who defend our common home and the most vulnerable, people who are or were living witnesses to the hope and action with Creation. You may recall the indigenous people in your land, faith leaders, social workers and all those who work for socio-environmental justice, especially those who work in campaigns against the fossil fuels industry and for those engaged in campaigns for the fossil fuel phase-out and a just energy transition.
- Research on what are the local seeds that are easy to grow and cultivate where you live, and see if your community can offer these seeds to the faithful. You can incorporate this at the end of a prayer service, offering some reflection on how we are all called to bear the firstfruits of hope, and commit to check on how these seeds have grown by the time of next year's Season of Creation.



Crafts

Invite the children and youth of your community to create a small model or a drawing or a painting of a seed and all the Earth's creatures that are needed to make it grow and blossom: water, soil, pollinators, work of human hands, etc. See the following images for ideas:



At the beginning of the season, distribute to the children of your community a small bean (or any other option that easily germinates) that they can plant in a cup with water or with a cotton ball. Give them clear and simple instructions to help cultivate the bean and contemplate the process of its germination. Invite the children to offer these germinated beans in a closing prayer service at the end of the season. See examples:



Create clay sculptures shaped like the hands of people in your community. These sculptures can be shaped all together like in the symbol logo this year, or each hand can be shaped as if it were holding a seedling. See the following images for ideas:



Reproduce this year's symbol logo and images related to this year's theme using seeds only and other sustainable materials. See examples in the following images that were created by using seeds:



Addendum 3: Talking points to reflect on this year's theme and symbol

The different dimensions of hope

- Christian hope is not superficial, it's concrete. Our hope is rooted in God's character, promises, and actions.
- Needs for metanoia, ecological conversion, and reconciliation with the Earth. The Spirit is the one guiding our conversion, leading us deeper into the comprehension of being a cosmic family.
- Repairs the broken relationship between humans and Earth, human creatures and other creatures, humans and God. Repair and repentance.
- To change the system, we must change our mindsets.
- Important for us is to listen to the voices that cry out and groan, communities who are losing land and livelihoods due to climate change, species and ecosystems being lost, victims of extraction and fossil fuel industries.
- Active hope in our Christian communities can be seen in the care of Creation, hearing the voice of the poor, hearing the cries of the Earth.
- Hope inspires us to act; because we are hopeful we can act and so see what we hope for. Because we are hopeful we are willing to act.
- Collective action creates grounding hope for those suffering from climate anxiety, being overwhelmed that time is running out. Christian hope fuels transformative action.
- Transformation takes time, we have to be patient. Hope is also a process, requires patience.
- Hope is faith in the things we do not see, hope is knowing that tomorrow will be better because Christ is resurrected, He defeated all evil. Life overcomes all things.
- Active hope is a non-monetary value that has the power to change the world.



Action as a sign of the firstfruits of hope

- You don't see hope. It's like a seed; you have to be patient and nurture it with water to make it grow. If you don't include hope, the seed might not grow. We know sometimes the seed might die, but hope reminds us to keep planting other seeds.
- The firstfruits of hope are born when we work collectively, regenerating peace and harmony in all Creation and with Creation, nurturing peaceful coexistence, fidelity, honesty, and transparency among the whole cosmos.
- The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) is a global initiative that strives for an international regime that complements the Paris Agreement in addressing the still-growing supply of fossil fuels. It is a concrete action that can serve as a compass for a hopeful future.
- The FFNPT is a call for a transformation, not just adjusting our greenhouse gases (GHG) outputs, but which points to a change of life that goes to phasing down and out of fossil fuel production.
- Action as the firstfruits of hope can look like many different things: advocacy campaigns, sustainability initiatives, and educational formations to help upskill Christian communities in their awareness of how care for Creation is central to our faith.
- The firstfruits of hope can be seen when we think and work collectively, when we recognize how we depend on Creation, when we listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the poor, when we listen to the voices of our global neighbors impacted by climate change, when we listen to the prophetic voices of indigenous sisters and brothers, when we listen to the different creatures that are going extinct and the ones still striving to live, when we listen to the voices of young people and children, when we learn from the slow and powerful cycles of life of different species, ecosystems, and biomes, when we work together with Creation and all creatures for a better future.



How we are called to hope and act together with Creation

- To hope and act together with Creation we must truly listen to how and why Creation is groaning. We need to push for more action, we're more aware than ever of the problems.
- Creation is groaning. Creation is part of God's revelation, we must learn from and with Creation to know how to hope and act for a better future.
- Although the testimony of indigenous Christians and their spiritualities are respected, they are not listened to. Usually, Christian churches find resistance to speaking about Earth or Creation as a being, while for indigenous and original peoples this is an intrinsic part of their cosmic worldview and way of living.
- Creation groans as fossil fuel industries create greenwashing campaigns for clean energy. They are expanding their energy businesses instead of actually phasing out of fossil fuels. They talk about energy transition, but they are only doing an energy expansion to keep their profits high.
- We must acknowledge the damages caused by selfish and foolish decisions that disregard the cries of the most marginalized, including refugees, or those displaced by climate change, mining, and ecological devastation. The presence of big oil companies at COP28 we saw last year is a clear example of this.
- As resources diminish and access to them diminishes, there's more war. The inevitable result of the climate crisis will be more violence. You can't have peace without an equitable sharing of resources.
- The African wisdom of Ubuntu teaches us that the sense of self is shaped by relationships with others. It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a cosmic family to care for Creation. I am because we are, the same goes with Creation. We are nature, nature is us, we are God's hands for global and cosmic justice.





SEASON OF CREATION

