**Introduction**

The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church since Pope Francis established September 1st as an annual “World Day of Prayer” for the care of Creation.

September 1st is the beginning of the Season of Creation celebrated throughout the Christian world from September 1st to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Prayer Service here is for a formal church setting. For other purposes you may wish to shorten it or even do your own with readings and/or hymns of your choice.

Here is some additional resources:

**All Things Bright and Beautiful. Published June 18, 2015 by Julie Gaulke.**

**(First published in 1848)**

**Lyrics: A**ll things bright and Beautiful,

All things great and small,

All things wise and wonderful:

The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,

Each little bird that sings,

He made their glowing colors,

He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountains,

The river running by,

The sunset and the morning,

That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,

The pleasant summer sun,

The ripe fruits in the garden,

He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,

And lips that we might tell,

How great is God Almighty,

Who has made all things well.

**A Gathering Prayer**

Leader: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader: To bring new life to the land

 To restore the waters

 To refresh the air

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader: To renew the forests

 To care for the plants

 To protect the creatures

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader: To celebrate the seas

 To rejoice into the sunlight

 To sing the song of the stars

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader: To recreate the human community

 To promote justice and peace

 To remember our children

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

Leader: We join together as many and diverse expressions

 of one loving mystery: for the healing of the

 earth and the renewal of all life. (U.N. ENVIRONMENTAL SABBATH PROGRAM)

**Beginners - A poem by Denise Levertov**

But we have only begun to love the earth

We have only begun

To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?

-so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?

-we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,

only begun to envision

how it might be

to live as siblings with beast and flower

not as oppressors.

Surely our river,

cannot already be hastening

Into the sea of non being.

Surely it cannot

drag, in the silt,

all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet-

there is too much broken

that must be mended,

too much hurt we have done to each other

that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know

the power that is in us if we would join

our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture

So much is in bud.

**A Reflection by Theo Dorgan**

When great ships come back,

And come they will,

When they stand in the sky

All over the world,

Candescent suns by day.

Radiant cathedrals in the night

How shall we answer the question:

What have you done

With what was given you

What have you done with

the blue, beautiful world?

**A poem by Marcienne Reinstra** - **To Weavers Everywhere**

God is weeping,

the beautiful creation tapestry

She wove with such joy

Is mutilated, torn to shreds

reduced to rags

Its beauty fragmented by force.

God is weeping,

but look!

She is gathering up the shreds

To weaving something new.

God sits weaving,

Patiently, persistently

With a smile that radiates like a rainbow

On her tear streaked face.

And she invites us

Not only to keep offering her

The shreds and rags of our suffering

And our work

But even more-

To take our place beside her

At the loom

And weave with her

The tapestry of the new creation.

**THE CRY FROM A WOUNDED PLANET**

Sons and daughters of the Earth,

You who know good and evil:

Life is in danger! Show that you care!

DISCOVER THE WHOLENESS

The Earth is a tapestry woven without seams.

No-one has the right to tear it apart.

SENSE THE HOLINESS

A holy fragrance hovers over all that exists.

Life must be valued, protected and loved.

REJOICE IN THE BEAUTY

Creation has a wealth of its own.

Nothing is mere raw material.

The gifts of the Earth must be handled

With devotion and gratitude.

REMEMBER THE CONTEXT

Your life is woven into the pattern of all life on Earth.

All that you have is given to you in trust.

You must pass it all onto those who come after you.

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

Mother Earth has enough to meet the needs of all,

But not to satisfy their greed.

The gap between poor and rich

Is contempt for human dignity.

LIVE IN RECONCILIATION

Sons and daughters of the Earth,

You who have the power to tear up the tapestry:

You are called to a life of reconciliation!