

INVITATION TO JOIN

THE SEASON OF CREATION 2024



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

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The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

“TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION”

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 “**Celebration**” begins 1 September, the Feast of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.



Images from the “Together - Gathering of the People of God” ecumenical prayer vigil organized by the Taizé community, one of the many impactful ecumenical events during Season of Creation 2023

The “**Preparation**” stage for Season of Creation this year begins in February. God is calling us to prepare in different ways in our diverse contexts. To celebrate the Season ecumenically we are invited to reach out to other ecumenical leaders and call our communities to discern how to listen to and respond to the cry of Creation, together. The “Preparation” stage is key for the Season of Creation, creating bonds and relationships, renewing the joy of meeting and embracing each other, and cultivating the gifts of communion and peace as the People of God together with our common home.

THEME AND SYMBOL FOR 2024

The theme for 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

The biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Saint Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. 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. “Creation is groaning” (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and our unsustainable actions that harm her. Along with our Sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions causing climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering as well as Creation’s suffering.

And yet Creation teaches us that hope is present in the waiting, in the expectation for a better future (cf. Rom 8:20-21). To hope in biblical context does not mean standing still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles.

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. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life is coming forth.

Here you can find an in-depth theological explanation of this year’s theme and symbol.

PREPARE FOR SEASON OF CREATION

We hope that this Season of Creation renews and unites us by the one baptism and call to care for our common home. We invite you to plan and prepare your own participation in this celebration.

Go to SeasonOfCreation.org where you will find the Faith Leaders' Invitation video calling us to join the celebration. We are launching the theme in February, after the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrated in the Northern Hemisphere. Then, after Pentecost, when the Southern Hemisphere celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the official Celebration Guide will be available in several languages on the website as well. Make sure to include in your calendar these key dates for the Season of Creation 2024:

- June: Webinar for the launch of the Season of Creation Celebration Guide.
- September 1: Season of Creation Opening Prayer Service with global faith leaders.
- September 21: Day of action to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) and online webinar to explain and reflect on phasing out of fossil fuels.
- October 4: Season of Creation Closing Event with youth voices from around the globe.

Stay tuned to our website and social media for the details of each event!



You will find concrete proposals to live the Season intentionally through prayers, sustainability initiatives, and advocacy actions in the Season of Creation website and Celebration Guide.