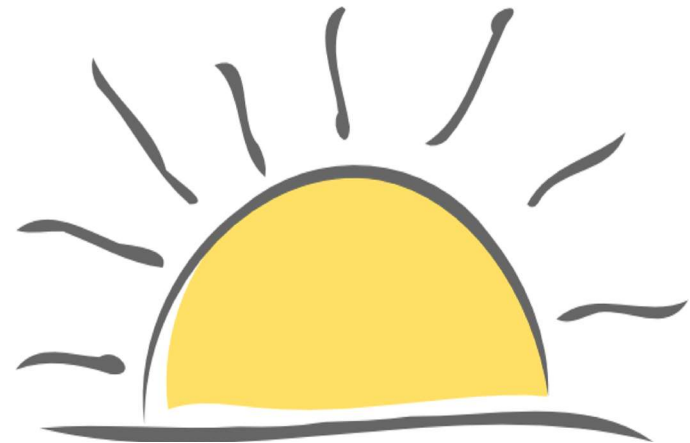




**Ontario Provincial Council
Sunrise Prayer Service**



Tuesday July 9, 2024

7:00 am

Opening Prayer

Wilma:

Let us begin our prayer service by signing ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us take time this morning to rejoice in the wonders of creation. God in his infinite compassion has lovingly formed our planet and all that live within it. He declared his creation good and entrusted us to care for it along with each other.

Sometimes in our everyday lives, we forget our responsibility to care for nature. Today, as we reflect on the marvels and wonders of creation, let us renew our commitment as good stewards of the earth.

Let us now listen to God's word.

A reading from the book of Genesis

Bishop Dowd:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. And God saw that it was good. God separated the light from the darkness and called the light "Day" and the dark "Night".

On the second day, God created a dome in the middle of the waters. God said, "Let the dome be separated from the waters", and it

"Everything is connected, and as a family of nations we must have a common concern: to see that the environment is cleaner, purer and preserved. And take care of nature, so that it takes care of u."

Pope Francis

Earth Teach Me to Remember

Earth teach me stillness
as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering
as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility
as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth Teach me caring
as the mother who secures her young.
Earth teach me courage
as the tree which stands alone.
Earth teach me limitation
as the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom
as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me resignation
as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach me regeneration
as the seed which rises in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself
as melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness
as dry fields weep in the rain.

Ute, North American

Canticle of the Sun

Refrain:

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy. Come
dance in the forest, come play in the field
and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day. He
carries the light of the Lord in his rays;
The moon and the stars who light up the
way unto your throne. **Refrain**

Praise for the wind that blows through the
trees, the seas mighty storms, the gentlest
breeze; they blow where they will, they
blow where they please to please the Lord.

Refrain

Praise for the rain that waters our fields and
blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
from death unto life her myst'ry revealed
springs forth in joy. **Refrain**

Bishop Dowd: Final Blessing

**Adapted from TCDSCB Earth Day Prayer Service
Prayer adapted from "Water: Sacred Gift, Sacred
Trust by S. Priscilla Solomon, CSJ.**

was so. And God say that it was good. He
called the dome "Sky".

On the third day, God said, "Let the waters
under the sky be gathered into one place
and let the dry land appear". And it was so.
And God saw that it was good. He called
the dry land "Earth" and the waters "Seas
and Oceans".

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be
lights in the sky in the day and in the night".
And it was so and God saw that it was good.
He called the light in the day "Sun" and the
lights in the night "Stars".

On the fifth day, God said, "Let there be
living things and living creatures in the
waters and in the skies". And it was so.
And God saw that it was good. He called he
living things and creatures in the waters
"Fish, Seaweed and Underwater Plants" and
the creatures in the skies "Birds".

On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be
living things and living creatures on the
surface of the earth". And it was so. And
God saw that it was good. He called the
creatures "Cattle, Lions, Squirrels, Deer and
all the other animals of the earth, and called
the other living things Flowers and Trees".
Then God said, "Let there be human beings
made in my image. Let these humans rule
over all the other animals and living
creatures on earth. Let them use plants and

seedlings for food and to make shelter and tools. Let them make the land and seas of earth as their home". And it was good. He breathed life into the humans and blessed them, making male and female. He called the humans "Man and Woman". Then God looked at all he had made. The day and the night, the sky, the land, and the seas, the sun and stars, the living creatures in the oceans, the skies and the earth, and the humans in God's own image. And God saw that it was very good. The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Adapted from Genesis 1:1-30 Taken from "Word for the Journey for Kids" by Lisa Freemantle and Les Miller

Reflection/Offering of Gifts

Linda--Water:

Water is the source of all life. It is pure and refreshing. It flows, cleans and nourishes. Water is a vital element we must take care of. Through the water cycle we are intimately connected to all of creation.

Emma—East:

I am the water that stands in the east: the water of newness, the water of life. Just as the morning light dispels the darkness, so also I dispel death and destruction. Where

Bishop Dowd: Creation Prayer

God our Father,
you created the world and sent your own
Son to live among us,
made of the same stuff, breathing the same
air,
marveling at sunrise and sunset just as we
do.

Help us to participate in the life around and
within us as your life,
as you living in us and we living in you and
in each other.

God of love and life, restore us to your
peace,
renew us through your power and teach us
to love all that you have created and to care
for the earth as your gift and our home.

- The Earth Community: In Christ through the
Integrity of Creation



Pledge of Commitment

Colleen P.:

We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We have come to help protect God's creation.

We have come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves anew to one another and to heal injustice and poverty.

Anna:

We have come to stand together against all threats to life.

We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God's creation; the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, and the many forms of life in the forest.

Marie-Theresa:

We have come to listen to the "music of the universe"—water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.

We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of his creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to reverence all that He has created.

All:

Let this be our pledge to protect and heal God's creation. Amen.

drought, flood, quake, tsunami or frost destroys, I bring new life. Green appears, hope rises, community forms.

R. I seek your care and protection.

Wilma—South: the waters of healing.

Where sickness prevails, I heal. Yes, I carry disease, but it is not mine by nature. By my nature and my call, I bring healing. My instructions are to carry nutrients and goodness for healing, but I am forced to carry contaminants, pollutants and disease.

R. I seek your care and protection.

Betsy--West: I am the water that stands in the west: the water of transformation.

From the beginning I have used my power to transform, shaping land and shore, rock and mountain. My power brings life and death. Whether I come as vapour, mist, liquid, ice or snow, I transform. But others have sought to control and use my power for profit.

R. I seek your care and protection.

Colleen M.—North: I am the water that stands in the north: the water of wholeness. Like the blankets of snow in the north that brings all together as one, or the ocean that becomes one with the horizon, I call all to know the oneness of life, the

kinship of creation. In the wintry cold, I am the promise of new life. I am given for the wholeness of creation, for the life of all creation. Yet there are some who take possession of me as though I belong to them alone.

R. I seek your care and protection.

Bishop Dowd—Prayer:

Creator God, we give you thanks for the precious gift of water. We remember the instructions you gave to water, and we long to ensure that your sacred gift will forever bring life, healing and wholeness to all creation.

Amen.

Karen—Soil: We offer up this pot of soil to remind us of all the minerals and unseen resources it harbours within. Some time we forget that the earth we walk on is, like water, another source of life. From it, plants, trees, and all living creatures are nourished. We harvest its minerals and rocks to build our homes and cities. Let us remember to care for our earth and harvest its resources in moderation.

Hilarion—Seeds: As we offer up these seeds, we are reminded of the potential they possess. Seeds, if cared for lovingly and properly, grow, mature and bear fruit. Like the seed, we too need to be loved, cared for and nurtured by all those around us in order to grow to our full potential as disciples of Christ. When we look at these seeds let us remember not only our potential, but that we need to love and care for others as well.

Mary C—Plants and Animals: In the scripture reading, we heard how God appointed us to take care of the earth and rule over the plants and animals. We realize that we are integrally connected to all living things through the food chain and the elements of the earth. Let us remember to make wise decisions and treat all living creatures with kindness.

Joanna—Cross: We offer this cross to remind us of the profound love of God. Through His compassion, He gave us life and made our beautiful world. Let us remember to give thanks to Him always and praise Him for His wondrous creation.