

EARTH DAY 2021

APRIL 22, 2021

INTERNATIONAL THEME:

RESTORE OUR COMMON HOME



THIS 2021 EARTH DAY PRAYER AND CELEBRATION
IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
SISTER ROSEMARY CAMPI AND
SISTER JACQUELINE GRAHAM
IN GRATITUDE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS OVER MANY
YEARS TO OUR PRESENTATION CONGREGATION'S
UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
AND CARE AND CONCERN FOR OUR EARTH HOME.

OPENING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

1. O lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I
look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

3. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain

In the following poem, written by **Sister Jackie Graham**



in August 2020, Jackie shows her profound understanding of the connection between the “human child” – all humans – and the natural world. Perhaps that is the reason that she lived in that connected reality in every aspect of her life. Her beautiful artistry

extended beyond visual images to words. You are invited to read this prayerfully.

I Am Tree

**Tree - As a human child sitting at your feet,
over-shadowed beneath your sheltering
canopy, I do not bring an axe, but only awe,
To merge with your living silence...**

**Let your stately presence speak
to my listening soul:**

**How came I to be sky-reaching tall?
How has my bark sealed over scars of fire?
What was it in me that faced violence
in tempest and flood, yet stood firm?**

**Human Child-at-my-feet,
sprinkled now in a dance of light
through my spring-fresh foliage,
I enfold you in my branched embrace.**

**Listen now for the whispered wisdom
of my centuries:**

**From seed we both began, you and I,
and my seedling self, fingering out,
rooted deeply and deeper still,
absorbed nourishment of soil, mineral
and anchored rock.**

**Child, search out, hold firm
to the Source and Purpose of all life.
Carry strength to every bud of promise.**

**In Winter's frost, testing all endurance,
I have waited in faith, sure of the warming
Earth, for sap to flow and buds' blush,
bursting to new-born green.**

**In the cycles of your life, Child,
ever hope for Spring to thaw your
frozen dreams and unclench the dormant
potential of your living.
-- Never fear to begin again.**

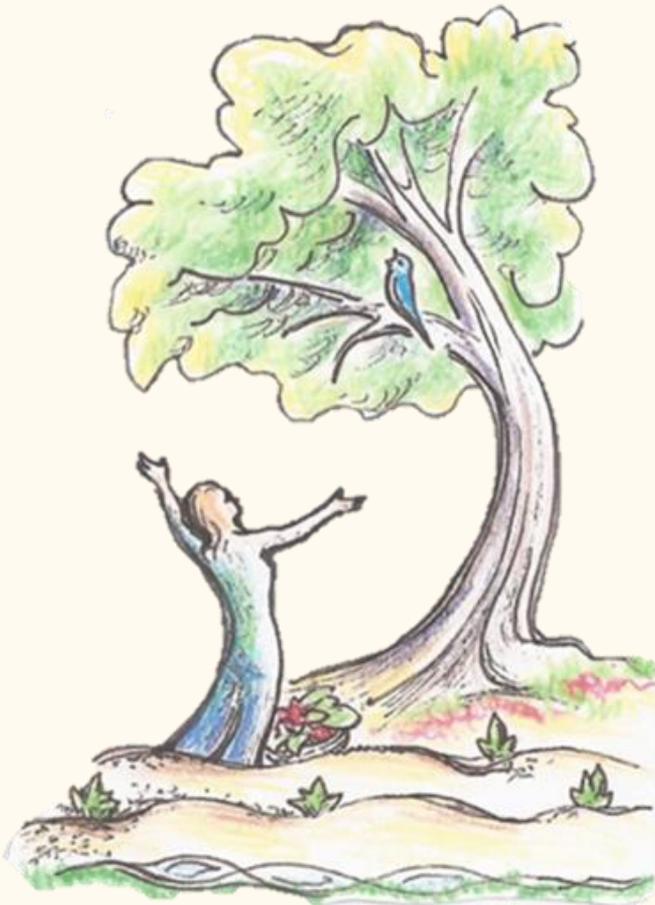
**I mark my Season's cycles, ringing
layers to my heartwood, reminding me
always that there is so much more richness
to life than merely enduring it.**

**One must keep choosing to root down,
branch out and reach higher,
with a pure joy in life surging within you.**

**And with the ring of each new year, find
more room to give - shelter for other
beings, seeds for sprouting, shade for the
weary, beauty for all who choose to see...**

**Child at my feet - rest, refresh, find reverence.
In all the ways given to you **bring forth life.****

~ Sr. Jackie Graham, PBVM
August 2020



Sister Rosemary Campi lived intensely her passion for the Environment, and it was also a significant part of her spirituality. She was truly filled with awe and contemplation of all of God's creation. An important part of her daily prayer was to meditate on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *On Care of Our Common Home, Laudato Si'*. Following is a prayer from *Laudato Si'*, which you are invited to pray quietly or in unison.

A Prayer For Our Earth

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, be filled with awe and

contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen.

~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

CLOSING PRAYER

A Christian Prayer In Union With Creation

~ *Laudato Si'*

Leader

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

All

Praise be to you!

Leader

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary, our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.

Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.

All

Praise be to you!

Leader

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world toward the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.

All

Praise be to you!

Leader

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.

All

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

Leader

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love

for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and
money that they may avoid the sin of
indifference, that they may love the common
good, advance the weak, and care for this
world in which we live.

All

The poor and the earth are crying out.

Leader

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life, to prepare for a
better future, for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

All

Praise be to you! Amen.





ACTIONS FOR LIVING A LAUDATO SI' EARTH MONTH

APRIL 2021

1. **Pray/act** for those most affected by climate change - those living in poverty.
2. **Pray/act** for those most affected by climate change - animal species who lose their habitat.
3. **Pray/act** for those most affected by climate change - children of future generations who will pay the price of our selfishness today.
4. **Pray/act** for those most affected by climate change - millions of fisher folks in the world whose livelihood is destroyed by warming oceans and ocean acidification.
5. **Pray/act** for those most affected by climate change - people who suffer from extreme heat and poor air quality.
6. **Pray/act** for those most affected by climate change - farmers whose livelihood is destroyed by irregular season changes.



Sources

CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Pope Francis, *Care for Our Common Home, Laudato Si'*

Sister Jacqueline Graham, PBVM, "I Am Tree"

Sisters of the Presentation Justice Committee