

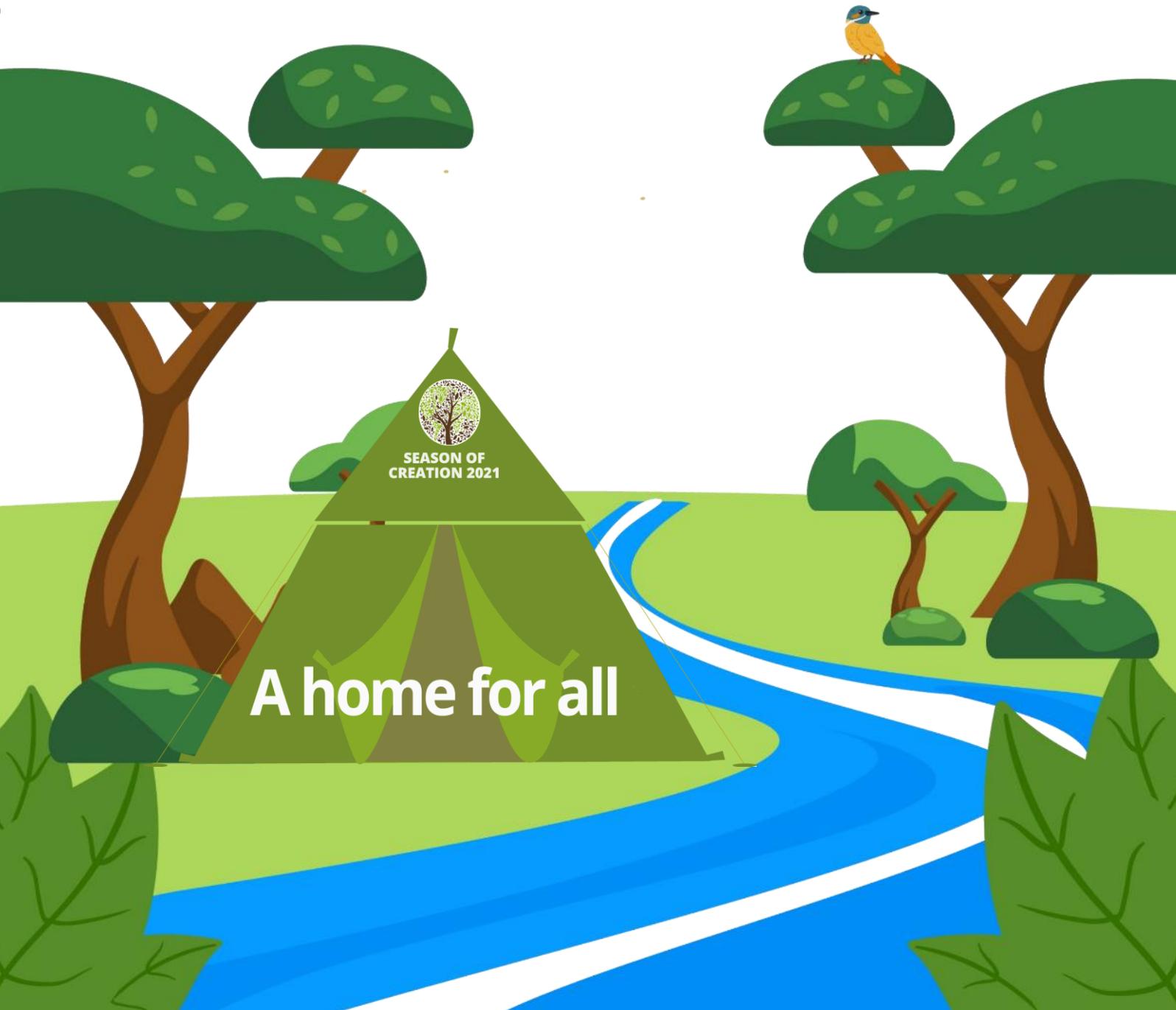


**SEASON OF
CREATION**

2021 Celebration Guide

A Home for All?

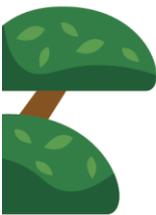
Renewing the *Oikos* of God



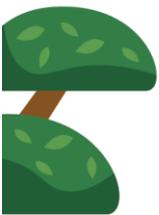
A home for all

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Introduction

Thank you for bringing your community together for the Season of Creation. 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.

As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God’s creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and the sisters and brothers who share it.

This year, the theme for the season is **A home for all? Renewing the *Oikos* of God.**

This guide will help you learn about the season and plan to celebrate it. More resources, including webinars and prayer services, a Facebook group, and photos, are available online. Please visit SeasonOfCreation.org to access all the materials.

Season of Creation Steering Committee

actalliance



europaean christian **environmental** network



THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Lausanne/WEA
Creation Care Network



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



World Council of Churches



World Communion of Reformed Churches



Faith leaders' invitation to join the Season of Creation

Our dear Relatives in Jesus our Saviour and Lord,

From September 1 to October 4, the Christian family celebrates the good gift of creation. This global celebration began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the Day of Prayer for Creation and is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community. Prayer is a powerful experience and tool to raise awareness and foster transformational relations and ministry.

This year our theme is **A Home for All? Renewing the *oikos* of God**. It is our hope to work together to develop a larger Biblical and cosmological horizon, not only to be edified by the texts themselves, but to develop a new way to see Scripture, life, and Earth all in the *Oikos* of God and to acknowledge the wisdom from countless sisters and brothers helping all to renew our world as an interconnected and interdependent global beloved community.

In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth. The word "dome" is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' — in other words, God puts us all in — all people, all life — under the same domed roof — we are all in the house, the *oikos* of God. God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this *oikos* of God. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the *oikos* of God "the Beloved Community," a community in which all of life are equally members, though each has a different role.

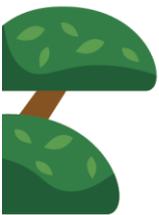
The *oikos* is a home for all but it is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. The whole creation is still crying out. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution the geography where we recognize God's creative power has continued to shrink. Today only scraps of the human consciousness recognize God acting to restore and heal the Earth. We have forgotten that we live in the household of God, the *oikos*, the Beloved Community. Our fundamental interconnectedness has been at best forgotten, at worst deliberately denied.

It is our hope and prayer that we can become again this beloved community of intentional discipleship. We hope to move beyond the programmatic and didactic aspects of life to the prophetic and spiritual life, to the action and way of life, which is shaped by Jesus.

May we be the champions to renew life, the servant leaders of all life in the Beloved Community, the *oikos* of God.

In God's Grace,

Members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee



Members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee:

Bishop Marc Andrus, Episcopal Diocese of California

Rev. Dr Dave Bookless, A Rocha

Rev. Ed Brown, Care of Creation and Lausanne Catalyst for Creation Care

Dr. Celia Deane-Drummond, Director, Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford

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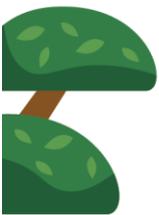
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2021 Season of Creation Theme: A Home for All? Renewing the *Oikos* of God

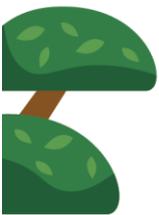
Each year, the ecumenical steering committee that provides this Celebration Guide proposes a theme for the Season of Creation. The 2021 theme is **A Home for All? Renewing the *Oikos* of God.**

The Psalmist proclaims “the Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.” There are two statements of faith at the heart of this song. The first is that every creature belongs to the Earth community. The second is that the entire community belongs to the Creator. A Greek word for this Earth community is *oikos*. *Oikos* is the root of the word *oikoumene*, or ecumenical, which describes our ‘common home’, as Pope Francis calls it in *Laudato Si’*. Our common home, the Earth belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this common *oikos*.

By rooting our theme in the concept of *oikos*, we point to the integral web of relationships that sustain the wellbeing of the Earth. The word ecology (*oikologia*) describes the relationships between animals, plants, non-sentient organisms and minerals that each play a vital role in maintaining the balance of this beloved community. Each creature is important and contributes to the health and resilience of the biodiverse ecosystem in which it lives. Humans belong in the right relationship within this Earth community. We are made from the same stuff of the Earth, and are cared for by our co-creatures and the land.

Human relationships also have ecological significance. Economic (*oikonomia*), social and political relationships affect the balance of creation. Everything that we fabricate, use and produce has its origin in the Earth, whether mineral, plant or animal based. Our habits of consuming energy and goods affect the resilience of planetary systems, and the capacity of the Earth to heal itself and sustain life. Economic and political relationships have direct effects on the human family and the more-than human members of God’s *oikos*. Genesis 2.15 reminds us that among our co-creatures, the Creator has given humans a special vocation to tend and keep the *oikos* of God.

Sustaining just ecological, social, economic and political relationships requires our faith, reason and wisdom. By faith, we join the Psalmist in remembering that we are not stewards of an inanimate creation, but caretakers within a dynamic and living community of creation. The Earth and all that is not a given, but a gift, held in trust. We are called not to dominate, but to safeguard. By reason, we discern how best to safeguard conditions for life, and create economic, technological and political architectures that are rooted in the ecological limits of our common home. Through wisdom we pay careful attention to natural systems and processes, to inherited and indigenous traditions, and to God’s revelation in word and Spirit.



For centuries, humans (*anthropoi*) have ordered our lives and economies according to the logic of markets rather than the limits of the Earth. This false logic exploits the *oikos* of God, and makes creation a means to economic or political ends. The current exploitation of land, plants, animals and minerals for profit results in the loss of habitats that are homes for millions of species, including humans whose homes are at risk due to climate conflict, loss and damage. Reason tells us that in this anthropocene age, ecological and social disintegration and exclusion cause the current climate crisis and accelerate ecological instability. Wisdom equips us to find the answers, and pathways to build green economies of life and just political systems that would sustain life for the planet and people.

Faith gives us trust that God's Spirit is constantly renewing the face of the Earth. Within this horizon of hope, our baptismal call frees us to return to our human vocation to till and keep God's garden. In Christ, God calls us to participate in renewing the whole inhabited Earth, safeguarding a place for every creature, and reform just relationships among all creation.

During this liturgical Season of Creation, the ecumenical Christian family calls every household and society to repent and reshape our political, social and economic systems towards just, sustainable economies of life, which respect the life-giving ecological limits of our common home.

We hope that this Season of Creation renews our ecumenical unity, in our baptismal call to care and sustain an ecological turning that will ensure all creatures can find their home to flourish, and participate in renewing the *oikos* of God.



Season of Creation 2021 Prayer

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

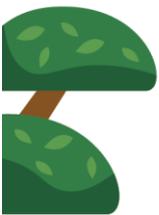
With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.” We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth’s capacity to heal herself. Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean deeps once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Season of Creation 2021 Logo: Abraham's Tent

This year's logo for the Season of Creation is Abraham's tent, symbolizing "A home for all".

Abraham and Sarah opened their tent as a home for three strangers, who turned out to be God's angels (Genesis 18). By creating a home for all, their act of radical hospitality became a source of great blessing.

Abraham's tent is a symbol of our ecumenical call to practice creation care as an act of radical hospitality, safeguarding a place for all creatures, human and more human, in our common home, the household (*oikos*) of God.

This Season of Creation, consider pitching "Abraham's tent" in the church garden or green space as a sign of hospitality for all beings who are excluded. Communities could be invited to pray with and for the vulnerable of the community. Perhaps bring parts of creation into the tent to pray with you. The tent can also be present as a symbol during events or in worship throughout the Season of Creation as a symbol of the community's intention to create a home for all.

Abraham's tent would have likely been open on multiple sides, so anyone passing by would feel welcome. The tent is often an emblem of dialogue, especially between monotheistic religions born from Abraham. Today, it is a sign of our interfaith and interdisciplinary call to create safe spaces for dialogue and discernment.

The tent represents a place of shelter or refuge. It links us with the homeless, refugees, and all who are on the move and displaced by the effects of climate change. Psalm 84 reminds us that in God's house (*oikos*), even the sparrow finds a home to build a nest and lay her eggs.

In the Gospel of John 1:14, we read that the "the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us." The symbol of the tent can remind us of how Jesus came to dwell among us as a sign of God's love. Love is the root of our faith, which compels us to love our neighbors by tilling and keeping our common home.

The tent is also a sign of simplicity. Particularly among young people, the tent and the backpack symbolize what is essential, sufficiency, living within our means, and travelling lightly upon the earth. Like nomadic and semi-nomadic people today, Abraham and Sarah knew what it meant to be vulnerable, depending upon the goodness of the land, respecting its rhythms, and living in trust. The tent is a sign of the grateful pilgrim who knows that as we pass through this life, our footprint must be light upon the Earth.



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.

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 other ideas and campaigns, including denomination-specific initiatives.

As you are planning your event, be sure to register it on the website at SeasonofCreation.org. When you register, your celebration will become visible on the global Season of Creation map to inspire others and increase attendance. We will also contact you to provide additional resources.

However you celebrate, be sure to 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 close ups of children without parent/guardian permission*). Please upload your photos at SeasonofCreation.org.

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.
- Join our English-language Facebook community and share your experiences.
- Write a blog post about your community's Season of Creation celebration.

Pray and worship

Prayer is at the center of our lives as Christians. Praying together deepens our relationship with our faith and brings forth new gifts of the Spirit. As Jesus taught us, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them" (Matthew 18:20).

The following suggestions will help you shape a prayer or worship service during the Season of Creation.

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.

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 the most vulnerable in your community. You might also consider taking up a collection to support a particular issue.

Start with the event checklist. Ask all participating communities to advertise the service. Broadcasting information via social media, print and web media will ensure good attendance and lead to a diverse, dynamic celebration. Sample flyers, bulletin inserts, and pulpit announcements are online. Appoint either one clergy person or a group of clergy people from participating churches to lead the prayer service.

The Prayer service included below in this Celebration Guide was developed for the 2021 Season of Creation. You can use and adapt this service to your context.



Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation

An ecumenical working group has created an order of prayer based on this year's theme, A Home for All? We encourage you to use this prayer service to mark the beginning and 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.

In addition to several ecumenical resources, the 2021 prayer service is informed by prayers from the tradition of Indigenous Christians. In this context, the phrase "the people" is a reference to all species, minerals even stars in the heavens. Among these people are the human people, the plant people, the four-legged, flying and swimming peoples, rock people, star people and more. All "people" should find their home in the *oikos* of God.

As you plan your service, consider pitching "Abraham's Tent" in the midst of the prayer service as a symbol of the community's intention to create a home for all. You may also wish to set the space with natural items that represent the land and other "peoples" from the beloved community who call your place "home".

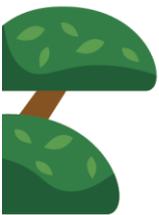
You may access the full text of the service by [following this link to the document online](#), or [in the appendix at the end of this Celebration Guide](#).

Integrate creation related themes and Abraham's Tent into Sunday liturgies

Encourage your pastor/priest to preach a sermon on creation or integrate creation themes into prayers or Bible studies during the Season of Creation. Each week, lectionaries provide an opportunity to explore the Season of Creation theme. [Here you will find reflections](#) on the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel readings for each week during the Season of Creation. More ideas can be found at <http://sustainable-preaching.org/sermon-suggestions/>

Consider how creation themes can also be incorporated into other aspects of the service, such as the procession, offertory, Eucharistic prayers, children's messages and more.

Consider pitching "Abraham's tent" a tent in the church or church garden as a sign of hospitality for all beings who are excluded. Communities could be invited to pray for and with the vulnerable of the community. The tent could be present in liturgies or events throughout the Season of Creation as a symbol of the community's intention to create a home for all.



Hold your worship service outside

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 committing to actions of healing and restoration.

- Depending on your style of worship and the weather, consider an informal service or brief Eucharist that can be incorporated into the ecumenical prayer service offered in this Celebration Guide, or other creation-centered liturgies.
- For your offertory, ask children and adults to gather symbols from nature and take them to the holy table as “fruit of the earth and work of human hands” alongside the bread and wine.
- Include a moment of silence to listen to, and wordlessly join in with the song of creation’s worship.
- In place of the sermon, divide into groups for a short Bible study.
- Consider pitching “Abraham’s tent” a tent in a church or local garden as a sign of hospitality for all beings who are excluded. Invite people to pray for and with the vulnerable of the community. The tent can also be present in liturgies or events throughout the Season of Creation as a symbol of the community’s intention to create a home for all.

Organize a Creation Walk or Pilgrimage

You might consider organizing a contemplative walk outside to meditate on the gift of God’s creation and our response to be in deeper communion with all life. You could organize a pilgrimage to a significant ecological site or to a site that witnesses to ecological or social injustice. You could study ecologically themed Scriptures, or prayers such as this [ecological rosary](#), while walking. Your pilgrimage could also culminate in a prayer service, or the Earth Examen.

Engage your local ecology through this Earth Examen:

An examen is a way of beholding an object or being present in prayerful wonder. Through a series of questions, you are invited to reflect on God’s presence and the goodness of that which you behold. During this Season of Creation, consider contemplating a part of your local ecology. This is an exercise that you can choose to do alone, or with a group.

Pick a natural or agricultural place to contemplate. A forest. A river. A city street with a natural area. An urban park. A farmer's field. A hilltop. Find a comfortable place to rest in or near this place. Enter into prayer in whatever way is natural to you. Invite Holy Wisdom to open the eyes of your heart. When you are ready, this resource will guide you in this spiritual practice. You may follow the link to the website, or the appendix to this Celebration Guide.

Encourage sustainable living

Make sustainable lifestyle changes on an individual level

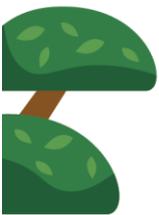
The Season of Creation is a wonderful time to reflect on how our lifestyles affect the environment and to make a commitment to more sustainable ways of living. The good news is that making more sustainable lifestyle choices in just a few areas adds up to a big difference overall. As the saying goes, "Let us live simply so that others may simply live." Living simply is a way to ensure our planet is truly a home for all.

- Calculate your carbon footprint using an online calculator [like this one](#)
- Join the Season of Creation sustainability challenge which includes weekly themes related to diet, energy, consumerism, and transportation. (check the Season of Creation website for details)
- Engage a small group of people in your community to join you in the group to pray, reflect, and support one another

Make sustainable changes on an institutional level

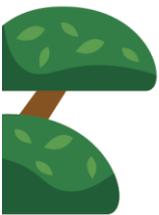
Changes at institutional level can have a huge impact and result in tangible reductions in negative environmental impacts.

- Practice the [Roadmap for Congregations, Communities and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice](#) developed by the World Council of Churches to change the way we deal with the economy and our ecological surroundings.
- Conduct an [energy audit](#) of your institution's facilities to look at key areas such as heating, lighting, ventilation and insulation offer many opportunities for immediate footprint reduction.
- Many Church networks now have platforms to support families, churches and congregations that want to make sustainability changes. A Rocha has developed [Eco-Church](#). The Episcopal Church has [this pledge](#). The Vatican is launching an interactive "[Laudato Si Action Platform](#)"[2], which will support Catholic Institutions and families to review their impact and take action across a number of areas.



Hold a Sustainability Event

- Organize a **beach or waterway clean up** during International Coastal CleanUp in September. A Rocha offers a [toolkit](#) to host a beach clean-up.
- Take your clean up a step further by including a **plastics brand audit**, a citizen science initiative organized by Break Free from Plastics that involves counting and documenting the brands found on plastic waste collected at a cleanup to help identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution.
- Hold an educational event where you serve a [meal that is good for the climate!](#)
- Start a [community garden](#) that can support and invite the local community to participate. See [here](#) for how to make your garden a climate garden.
- Consider having an ecumenical [tree planting event](#) that incorporates a [prayer service](#). Guidance for how to select a tree and choose a site is [here](#). You can link it to the [75 trees sustainability event to support UN Initiative on Climate Change](#)
- **Develop a or a healthy habitat** to help restore local lands and support local biodiversity such as this [Saint Kateri Habitat](#). More information is available here in the [World Wildlife Fund Biodiversity Toolkit](#).



Advocacy: Participate in campaigns that call for ecological restoration

The 2021 Season of Creation theme is *A Home for All?: Renewing the Oikos of God*. This theme is in alignment with a global call to recognise that “the Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.” This means every creature belongs to the Earth community and the entire community belongs to the Creator and we are called as custodians to care for our common home in an integral ecological sustainable manner. The year 2021 is a “super year” for audacious action to be taken on the dual crises of climate and biodiversity collapse, plus the global health pandemic that have gripped our common home. All these crises have been caused by human excesses and lack of cooperation. Several scientific papers have established that the destruction of natural ecosystems increases the likelihood of future pandemics like Covid-19. This year is a critical moment to leverage ambitious targets and momentum on implementation in the international negotiations at two United Nation Conference of Parties (COP) meetings; the first in October discussing Biodiversity, and the second in November discussing Climate Change.

The first COP on 11-24 October 2021 is the Convention on Biodiversity (COP 15), where the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be negotiated in light of the global community failing to reach the Aichi targets on biodiversity management set ten years ago. The second meeting from 1-12 November 2021 is COP26 on climate change where new national commitments to tackle the climate crises under the Paris Agreement are due to be delivered. The grave crises these COP processes are intended to address are deeply and integrally connected, and so are their solutions.

Here are some key advocacy asks for governments related to these COPs:

- Ensure that human rights, social justice and integrity of creation are at the centre of the response to the current climate, public health, and biodiversity crises.
- Governments must implement solutions that prioritise protecting people, the planet and all of nature, including natural ecosystems over profit. Solutions must prioritise the needs of the poor and marginalised.
- All governments must commit to no more loss of biodiversity, with biodiversity recovering worldwide from 2030 onwards.
- All governments need to take urgent action to limit warming to 1.5°C temperature target and put in place legislation, policies and measures to achieve this target in a sustainable manner.
- Governments must put in place the policies and legislation to achieve global net-zero emissions as soon as possible, which should include phasing out fossil fuels, investing in renewable and nature-friendly energy for all, and conserving and

restoring natural ecosystems. High emitting countries must take the lead in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities principle.

- Governments should put GHG-neutral nature-based solutions at the heart of their climate action, especially to improve the resilience of communities, including indigenous peoples, and countries to climate impacts, based on locally-led ecosystem preservation and restoration.
- Climate finance needs to be urgently and significantly scaled up for poor and vulnerable countries and communities on the frontline of the climate crisis.

More detailed asks for COP15 and COP26 can be found on the Season of Creation website.

Take Action

This moment in time is a kairos moment for all Christians to rise up in unanimity to support audacious targets to save our common home. Noting that both COPs will take place after the Season of Creation, we could not ask for a more timely moment to rise up.

We propose the following joint actions that would allow the Christian Churches to support global advocacy efforts for just and ambitious outcomes on biodiversity and climate next year.

1. Join a global advocacy campaign

- Join the campaign to ‘Pray and Act for Climate Justice’, in the run up to COP26 <https://www.prayandact4climate.org/>. This campaign brings together people of faith to act and pray for climate justice.
- Join the [Catholic petition](#) on the climate crisis and biodiversity leading up to both COP15 Biodiversity Summit and COP26 Climate Summit

2. Engage locally

- Local decision makers, such as mayors, councillors, church leaders, members of national governments or parliaments, and others, may be involved in making decisions affecting climate and biodiversity. You can influence decisions locally and globally by speaking to local and national decision makers about these issues. Phone their office, send them an email, or organise a meeting with them to raise your concerns.
- Consider developing a statement about your concerns about climate and biodiversity. These can be shared with decision makers and the media throughout Season of Creation to make it clear what action is needed to tackle these crises. Talking points will be available on the Season of Creation website.

- Further resources with ideas for how to organise advocacy engagements (online, offline, high-level meetings and events, grassroots meetings and events), such as the Lutheran World Federation's Guide [The critical role of faith actors in national climate debate: Understanding Nationally Determined Contributions](#), which will be available through the Season of Creation website.

3. Join a mobilization

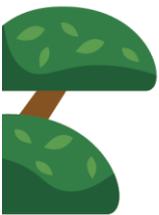
- Young people and their supporters from all generations are coming together in global strikes in the movement, known as **Fridays for the Future**. Public mobilisation sends a strong message to decision makers that change is needed. Visit [Fridays for the Future](#) or [Laudato Si' Generation](#), the movement of young Catholics, for more information on the strikes. You can also organise your own demonstration at your church, school, or government building, to raise attention to the issues.

4. Encourage institutions to divest

- Despite the climate and ecological crisis caused by burning fossil fuels, many institutions are continuing to invest their money in fossil fuel production. Join a campaign for institutions to divest their finances from fossil fuels, and investment in renewable energy instead: [Operation Noah's Bright Now campaign](#), and [Big Shift Global](#) campaign.

Share your advocacy work

- Follow the campaigns on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, and amplify our **advocacy asks** on your social media handles by using #SeasonofCreation. Also, join the [Season of Creation public group](#) to get inspiring updates and share your events and experiences.
- Share photos, poems and paintings about climate, biodiversity and post- COVID changes in your community to tell the story of nature around you and your relationship with creation.
- Write a blog about the activity you organised or participated in, or about the significance of Creation Time for you and share with us.



Global calendar of events

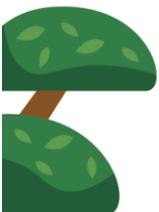
While each Christian community around the world celebrates the Season of Creation in its own way, a few events present opportunities to tie all communities together, and you can access them through [the global calendar of events on the Season of Creation website](#). You are particularly invited to join two online prayer services that will mark the opening and closing of the Season of Creation.

September 1: Online Prayer Service for Creation Day/World Day of Prayer for Creation

Creation Day, also called the World Day of Prayer for Creation, opens the season each year. Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew, the World Council of Churches, and many other leaders have called the faithful to celebrate it. Christian leaders will be gathering in Assisi for an ecumenical prayer service. Globally, Christians are invited to join an online prayer service to come together in a joyful celebration of our common cause. More information can be found at [SeasonofCreation.org](#).

October 4: St. Francis Day

Many traditions view St. 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 prayer service to reflect on how St. Francis has informed their spiritual journey and to celebrate our month-long journey together. You can find registration information about the online prayer service on the [Season of Creation website](#) and social media.



Join us on social media

Join us in prayer and reflection and share exciting news about your celebration on social media. A supportive global community is forming on Facebook and Twitter.

Join the global community by using the #SeasonOfCreation hashtag on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Hashtag posts may appear on the [Season of Creation website](#).

We invite you to like or follow the Season of Creation [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, as well as join the [Season of Creation public group](#) to get inspiring updates and join the conversation.



About the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This liturgical season runs annually from September 1 through October 4.

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 St. Francis that is observed by some Western traditions. St. Francis is the author of the Canticle of the Creatures, and the Catholic 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 of the Philippines [in 2003](#), the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu [in 2007](#) and the World Council of Churches [in 2008](#).

The Steering Committee

As the urgent need to solve the environmental crisis continued to grow, Christian churches were called to strengthen their united response. The Season of Creation ecumenical steering committee came together to provide resources to empower Christians respond to of our faith, each in the way of his or her own denomination or network, during this shared season of reflection and action.

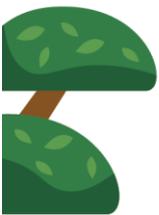
The steering committee is comprised of the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, World Evangelical Alliance, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, Lausanne Creation Care Network, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the European Christian Environmental Network, ACT Alliance 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 in dignity. We invite you to join us in these efforts.

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Lausanne/WEA
Creation Care Network



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