

All resources below are from *Season of Creation, A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes, Perennial Edition 2025*

## **The Season of Creation - September 1 - October 4**

During the *Season of Creation*, we join with Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God entrusted to our care. The celebration of this season began in 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I established September 1 as a Day of Prayer for Creation for the Orthodox Church. The World Council of Churches extended the celebration to October 4th, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. An ecumenical effort, including a resolution by the Episcopal Church General Convention in 2024, is now underway to establish a worldwide Feast of Creation on September 1.

The 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland (2022) recognized climate change as “an all-encompassing social crisis and moral emergency that impacts and interconnects every aspect of pastoral concern including health, poverty, employment, racism, social justice, and family life and that can only be addressed by a Great Work involving every sector of society, including the Church.”

### **COLLECTS FOR SUNDAYS IN SEASON OF CREATION**

#### **Sunday closest to August 31**

Lord of all service and inclusion, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of the lowly and lost in Creation; increase in us true service; nourish us with all humility; and bring forth in us the fruit of good giving; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Sunday closest to September 7**

Grant us, O God, the courage to choose Jesus’ way even at great cost, bearing our cross and releasing our possessions, for the liberation and healing of your world; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Sunday closest to September 14**

O God, having shown us how far your love goes in saving the lost and forgotten, mercifully grant that we might join you in the world of reuniting with all creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Sunday closest to September 21**

Grant us, Creator God, to put wealth to use in relieving the suffering of others; so that we might hold fast to the love that endures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Sunday closest to September 28**

O Creator God, you are known by your loving embrace of the undeserving, and those who suffer: Grant us sight of your justice and conviction to love all creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Sunday closest to October 5**

All-loving and everliving God, you are always more ready to give than we are to receive: Pour upon us your abundance of contentment with simple, faithful living; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

### **OTHER PRAYERS & COLLECTS**

#### **Collect from Gregory of Nazianzus**

Holy God, you alone are unutterable, from the time you created all things that can be spoken of. You alone are unknowable, from the time you created all things that can be known. All things cry out about you: those that speak, and those that cannot speak. All things honor you: those that think, and those that cannot think. For there is one longing, one groaning, which all things have for you. All things that comprehend your plan pray to you and offer you a silent hymn. In you, the One, all things abide, and all things endlessly run to you who are the end of all. Amen.

#### **Called to be God's Partners in the Care of the Planet**

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth**

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share: Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation. Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family. Give us new ears to hear and understand those who love off the land and sea, and to hear and understand those who extract its resources. Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted. Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community. For you are the one who seeks the lost, binds our wounds, and sets us free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

#### **God of Order and Dynamic Change**

Mysterious God, whose imagination and desire embrace all: We seek to discern you in the interplay of forces, in the order and the chaos of the universe, and in the complexities of every living system. Give us grace to honor your goodness in what we know and in what we do not know, in the world's harmonies and turbulence, and in its promise and change. For you are in, through, and beyond all that is: one God, make known to us in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, our inspiration and guide. Amen.

#### **The Justice of God and the Dignity of All Creatures**

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirl wind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. Amen.