

BEC Reflection

HOPE BELIEVE, LIVE and GIVE

ALL THE EARTH Proclaims the Lord

EVENT:

World Day for the Care of Creation

SOCIAL MEDIA TREND:

#careforcreation

INTRODUCTION:

We are reflecting this year on the theme HOPE: Believe, Live & Give. These last four months, we will focus on 'Giving Hope' to others. This month, our theme is "All the Earth Proclaims the Lord". Each year, particularly since the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato Si* in 2015, the first day of September is celebrated by the Church as the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" and the beginning of the Season of Creation, which concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on 4th October. During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home.



CLOSING PRAYER:

Invite a BEC member to lead the closing prayer.

CLOSING HYMN:

Shine Jesus Shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me



OPENING PRAYER

Invite a BEC member to lead the opening prayer.

OPENING HYMN:

All The Earth Proclaim The Lord

Antiphon:

*All the earth proclaim the Lord;
Sing your praise to God.*

1. Serve you the Lord,
heart filled with gladness.
Come into God's presence
singing for joy!

Antiphon

2. Know that the Lord
is our creator.
Yes God is our Father;
we are his own.

Antiphon

3. We are the sheep
of the green pasture;
For we are God's people;
chosen by God.

Antiphon:

*All the earth proclaim the Lord;
Sing your praise to God.*

DIALOGUE

Message by Pope Francis, 2020.

We cannot live in harmony with creation if we are not at peace with the Creator who is the source and origin of all things. As Pope Benedict XVI observed, "the brutal consumption of creation begins where God is missing, where matter has become simply material for us, where we ourselves are the ultimate measure, where everything is simply our property" (*Meeting with Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians of the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone*, 6 August 2008).

Particularly during this Season of Creation, may we be attentive to the rhythms of this created world. For the world was made to communicate the glory of God, to help us to discover in its beauty the Lord of all, and to return to him (cf. SAINT BONAVENTURE, *In II Sent.*, I, 2, 2, q. 1, conclusion; *Breviloquium*, II, 5.11). The earth from which we were made is thus a place of prayer and meditation. "Let us awaken our God-given aesthetic and contemplative sense" (*Querida Amazonia*, 56).



Share your thoughts with your BEC members.

- What does the above passage mean to you and for the Church today?
- Share with one another.

DISCERNMENT

Romans 8:18-21

Source: Jerusalem Bible

Consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- READ the text above aloud and LISTEN with openness.
- READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you.
- ASK: What is the Holy Spirit saying to me in my heart through the word or phrase?

SHARE:

- SHARE in small groups (3- 4 persons) the word or phrase that touched you and what you think the Lord is saying to you personally.

DEEDS:

- Discuss how we as individuals, family and BEC can do something practical to give hope to others and to care for creation.