

Prayer Services for the Season of Creation from the Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa Directions for Week Three:

Prayer of Creation Using Our Senses

General directions for leading a prayer service:

(If you have led prayer services before, you probably do not need this section.)

- 1. If you are new to leading prayer services or are gathering together a new group for prayer, we encourage you to be creative and engage this prayer service in the way that best suits those you are praying with. For example, if you are praying with a family with young children, you might want to adjust the language to better suit a younger audience.
- 2. We have created a "Presider" role that can be filled by one person. You may also invite different people to lead the various sections of the prayer service.
- 3. The prayer service is formatted so that you can visually see when there can be a pause between sections. If there is a break between lines, pause before reading the next section of the prayer service. This will enable participants to more fully reflect on the prayer.

What you will need for the Prayer of Creation Using Our Senses:

- 1. Consider holding this prayer service outside so that participants can take in the natural world through their senses.
- 2. You need a person (or persons) to lead the prayer service. Encourage this person to be comfortable with silence as participants reflect on the questions included in this form of prayer and during the periods of silent reflection.
- 3. We encourage you to be aware of people's physical limitations during this prayer service. As the focus is on the use of senses, you might need to alter the prayer to better include those who are visually or hearing impaired.
- 4. You will need a bowl of raisins for the first section of the prayer. You should be aware that some individuals might have allergies to raisins or young children might not be able to safely hold the raisin in their mouths. Providing a different type of food would enable those individuals to more fully participate.
- 5. You will need to let the group know how you are dividing into "Side 1" and "Side 2" for the reading of Psalm 126.
- 6. You will need copies of the Prayer of Creation Using Our Senses and the Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace prayer.

Specific Directions for the Prayer of Creation Using Our Senses:

- 1. Experiencing creation through our senses is the central section of this prayer service. Encourage participants to participate as fully as possible so that they are open to God in this prayer.
- 2. Give enough time for the group to prayerfully reflect in silence on each section of the experience of the senses.



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