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Voice of Creation**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

## Prayer Services for the Season of Creation from the Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa Directions for Week Four: Earth Examen

### **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 Earth Examen:**

1. Consider holding this prayer service outside so that participants may focus on the natural world around them.
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.
3. You will need to let the group know how you are dividing into “Side 1” and “Side 2” for the Prayer.
4. You will need copies of the Earth Examen and the Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace prayer.

### **Specific Directions for the Earth Examen:**

1. The Earth Examen is the central section of this prayer service and should focus on the geographic area in which you are praying. Encourage participants to reflect prayerfully on the presence of God in nature.
2. Give enough time for the group to prayerfully reflect on each step of the Earth Examen. Pause between the questions, and offer a time of silent reflection between each step of the examen.
3. Give enough time for the group to prayerfully reflect on the Earth Examen before moving into the Closing Prayer.