



**Listen to the
Voice of Creation**
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

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

Today's prayer focuses on experiencing an Earth Examen, an examen provides a way of noticing where God shows up in our day.

Presider: The burning bush, the fire that called to Moses, did not consume or destroy the bush. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we followed faithfully to deliverance from injustice.

Moses was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground in God's presence. May this symbol move us to remove the "sandals" of our unsustainable lifestyles that disconnect us from creation and our Creator, contemplate our connection to the holy ground where we live, and listen for the voice of creation.

Prayer

- Side 1 Creator of All, from your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise.
- Side 2 By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
- Side 1 You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationships with each creature so that we could listen to their voices and learn how to safeguard the conditions for life. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures.
- Side 2 We close our ears to the counsel of our fellow creatures. We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth. We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures.
- Side 1 Give us hearts to listen for the good news to renew the face of the Earth. Help us to walk lightly upon this holy ground.
- Side 2 Fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

Earth Examen

Presider: We are open to God's presence and those who are with us. Holy Wisdom, open the eyes of our hearts as we hold creation in prayerful wonder.

1. Become aware of God's presence in nature.

How does all life you see exist in God's spirit?

How do you feel knowing that the Spirit has filled this place for ages and now makes a home in you?

What helps you to be aware of God's presence?

2. Reflect on the ecological cycles of this place.

What plants, animals, microbes, and minerals are sheltered here?

How do they serve the whole earth in their being?

What feeling of gratitude fills your heart because of this place?

3. Listen to the voices that speak in this place.

Is this ecosystem healthy?

What are the keys to sustaining the equilibrium and balance of this place?

What threatens the biodiversity of this land?

Reflect for a few minutes on what speaks to your heart about the presence of God with us at this space, the land and property entrusted to our care.

Adapted from Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022

Closing Prayer

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace