

FOR A PARISH LITURGY LEADERSHIP TEAM IN THE SEASON OF CREATION

These ideas can be adapted according to need, context, timing and opportunity.

Suggestions are in two parts. Some parishes include a *Blessing of the Animals* in the Sunday liturgy and the second section has resources for that.

Date	Sunday	Sunday theme
4 Oct	27 th Sunday ordinary time. Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Last day of Season of Creation.	Year A. Sour grapes. Both Isaiah and Jesus speak about the love affair between Creator and creation. They can convey hard truths.

Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm (80) 79: 9, 12-16, 19-20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGeiTWGCsGQ>

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 4: 6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43

Words of Welcome

Good morning/evening. We're gathered together today to celebrate the last day of the Season of Creation. It's the 27th Sunday of ordinary time and it's also the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi who is the patron saint of ecology. That is why today we have xxxxxx (*state anything special you wish to announce*)

We welcome any visitors to our parish family/community . We hope many of you can stay afterwards to join in our usual cuppa.....etc

Our presider/celebrant today is Fr xxxx

Let's pause for a moment of stillness, as we consider the sacred liturgy which is about to take place. (Pause 10+ secs)

Please stand and sing our entrance hymn. (*Possibly "All creatures of our God and King."*)

Suggested hymns

All creatures of our God and King
Peace is flowing like a river
Make me a channel of your peace
Give thanks with a grateful heart
All things bright and beautiful
Be still
Now thank we all our God

Prayer of the Faithful

Invocation

Lord, hear us R/- Lord graciously hear us OR

E te Ariki...R/- Whakarongo mai ki a matou OR

Lord, in your mercy: R/- Hear our prayer (or a sung response)

We pray:

for the People of God to bring the Spirit of Christ to the world, to all who are searching for truth and longing for wholeness. May your creative actions inspire, energize and accompany our efforts to care deeply about all of your creation.

for cooperation among nations: that various nations may put aside their differences and work together to defeat disease, malnourishment, and shortages of drinking water. May the unity of the Holy Trinity enlighten those who divide by spreading peace around this world.

for those who suffer from poverty, hunger, ill health and anxiety because of their degraded and poisoned environment. Grant relief and mercy through your goodness and grace to our brothers and sisters who struggle to live in dignity.

for our faith community: send forth your Spirit to enliven our hearts and minds. Draw us closer to you through our care of one another and your awesome creation.

Other intercessions

Creator God, we rejoice that, as human beings, we have been created in your image and likeness. But we also recognise that humanity alone cannot adequately reflect you. The whole diversity of the earth is needed to give us even a glimpse of your wonder and greatness. Help us to live in a sustainable way so that this marvellous diversity is respected. O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Let us pray: Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of Your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives with you and with the Holy Spirit for ever.

Amen

(Source: Churches together in Britain and Ireland – resources for creation time)

Possible images for 27th Sunday

Vineyard

Creation ruined

Creatures

St Francis



A sculpture of St Francis of Assisi meditating in the grounds of San Damiano, Assisi, Italy. (Pixabay/Sweetaholic)



SAINT FRANCIS ASSISI AND THE SAN DAMIANO CROSS – Art as an instrument of God

🕒 October 12, 2018 👤 admin ➡ All Categories, Faith & Life

– Miguel Augusto (*)

On October 4th, the Catholic Church celebrates one of Her greatest saints, Saint Francis of Assisi, founder of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), approved by Pope Innocent III in the year 1209. We take the opportunity to speak about the cross of San Damiano, very cherished by the Franciscans. This cross was an instrument of God in the conversion of St Francis of Assisi, as St Clare used to say. It is a remarkable work of sacred art with a precious theological and evangelical message woven around the Passion of the Lord. The saint's involvement with this icon gave rise to the admiration we now have for the Crucifix of St Damian.

SECTION TWO

Blessing of the animals



Preparation

Animals are a vital part of creation of which human beings have been given stewardship. They provide us with companionship, and in some cases assist in independent daily living. The rite which follows is intended for use when it is desired to give thanks and to prayer for God's blessing on pets and other domestic animals.

It is anticipated that a significant number of children will be present, and their participation and leadership should be encouraged. Portions of this material may be incorporated into the Sunday Eucharist.

The sanctuary and church may be filled with plants. If there are practical considerations about bringing animals into church, then boards can be placed around the walls where people can pin up pictures of their pets.

Newsletter notes

Today at our parish Mass we will include a blessing of the animals. Perhaps you're wondering why? We live in God's world, and we're not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with creatures of every form, and with all our brothers and sisters.

God saw ALL that was made, and behold, it was very good. Let's celebrate the wonders of creation in our liturgy today.

From *Laudato si* #85

"To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope."

Words of welcome

This Sunday we celebrate among the living trees, ferns and forest life in our sanctuary. In our call to worship we join with our companion animals and all God's creatures to worship our Creator. Today we call on all creatures to praise God. We recall how we have hurt or neglected animals. We know one cannot exist without the other. We have placed

photographs of our pets on the boards displayed in the Church and these companion animals will be blessed during the service.

We will now light the three candles.

Leader: We kindle a light to God, the Creator,
who created light in the cosmos
and breathed life into all creation. *(A candle is lit)*

We kindle a light to Jesus Christ,
The light of the world,
our hope and our salvation. *(A candle is lit)*

We kindle a light to the Holy Spirit,
who sets our faith on fire
and gives us courage to follow the truth. *(A candle is lit)*

Let us Pray

Hear our humble prayer, O God,
for our friends, the animals,
especially for those who are suffering;
for animals that are overworked,
underfed, and cruelly treated;
for all the wistful creatures in captivity,
that beat their wings against bars;
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted,
or frightened or hungry;
for all that must be put to death.
We entreat for them all
Thy mercy and pity,
and for those who deal with them,
we ask a heart of compassion
and gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us, ourselves,
to be true friends to animals
and so, to share
the blessings of the Merciful.

Penitential

As we come home to Earth.
Lord have mercy

As we seek to love our home.
Christ have mercy.

As we seek to care for our kin.
Lord, have mercy.

God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all tiny beings as expressions of your mysterious design
and protect all creatures as voices of hope.
Amen

Intercessions (choose from the following and add your own)

Invocation

E te Ariki Response: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

Thank you, God, for the gift of life: for the beauty and wonder of creation, and
for our own life which comes from you.

We thank you for the richness of animal life: for fish and birds, insects, reptiles, and
mammals.

We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy
and comfort when we are sad.

We thank you for calling us to care for these animals. May we learn love and respect for all
living things.

Blessed are you, living, loving God.

All creation praises you, yet you have given the earth into our hands.

You made animals as our companions, that in caring for them we might learn to love and
care for all your creatures and find in them a sign of your grace. As we fulfil this calling may
we draw close to you, the giver of all life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The animals are blessed.

From *Laudato si* #92

*“Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a
wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures
and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river
and mother earth.”*



In most, St. Francis of Assisi is remembered as the patron saint of animals and founder of the Franciscan order. But he is also credited with originating the tradition of the Nativity scene.

Register the photo

Video clips

Creation Calls – Brian Doerksen - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwGvfdtI2c0>

His eye is on the Sparrow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOjq5zXNbS0>

What a wonderful world: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSo1MyWf8g>

Music ideas

While the congregation receives communion, instead of music being sung, you could play recording of NZ birdsong.

Credits

A Service of Worship - The Earth Is the Lord's, United Church of Canada. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003

Canadian Book of Occasional Services

Per Harling. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2001

A Catholic Prayer Book

Season of Creation <http://seasonofcreation.com/>