

# SEASON OF CREATION 2024



# BEING MORE ATTENTIVE

Caring for our common home, earth requires us to pay much more attention to what is happening around us. We can be so absorbed in our own world that we can be oblivious to both the beauty of the world around us and the great damage being done to it.

During this Season of Creation (September 1 - October 4), we invite you to spend time being more attentive to the world around you and being more responsive to what you see, hear, touch, smell, taste and feel.

Read the following four passages by yourself or in a group. Spend time quietly reflecting on what God is saying to you in each passage. Ask yourself how you feel about what you read and what you think you should do differently in your life?

If you are in a group, have a conversation about the passages without debating the matter. Just listen respectfully to each others thoughts and feelings.



# WORDS FROM JESUS

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

**Matthew 6: 28-30**



# WORDS FROM AN INDIGENOUS RANGER

As an Indigenous man and a Ranger, it is incredibly important to be attentive to the Earth around you and to listen to country's cries.

Our entire traditional social structures foundations are built upon and reinforced by, rites of passage ceremonies, rituals/song, dance, storytelling, and the allocation of "Yurree" (totems) that instruct and inform us of our cultural obligations that are to be employed holistically as we are a country and country is us.

It emphasizes our deep connection with the land and all its inhabitants, making it integral to our identity and responsibilities.

Country is our mother and our greatest Elder we must care for her as she has always cared for us.

**Shannon Bauwens, Bunya People's  
Aboriginal Corporation**



# WORDS FROM A POET

This morning  
the beautiful white heron  
was floating along above the water

and then into the sky of this  
the one world  
we all belong to  
here everything  
sooner or later  
is a part of everything else

which thought made me feel  
for a little while  
quite beautiful myself.

**Mary Oliver, Poem of the World**



# WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society.

## **Laudato Si' No 208**



# WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- Spend some time regularly in your yard, outside your workplace, in a park or somewhere in the bush;
- Make an effort to look closely at the trees and plants, the rocks, streams and other natural features, and the birds and other creatures, large and small. Listen intently and gently touch what you can without disturbing or harming it. Think about what has changed from day to day;
- Ask yourself if God is present in this time of connection and how you become aware of God's presence;
- At the end of your reflection on the four passages or your time in nature, pray the words of the canticle in the book of Daniel (Daniel 3: 57 - 88);
- Approach local First Nations people and organisations and ask to have a discussion about their perspectives on caring for country locally;
- Read more about education and ecological conversion in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, Chapter 6.

