

Welcome to Prayer of Praise of God The Creator:
NJPN Conference 2015 **Opening Prayer**
Prepared by Sr Louisa Poole SSL

**O our Loving Creator, you encircle us, each day, each night,
In the light, in the dark.
Be near us each, all, one , uphold us with your strength and your truth.**

WE SAY Antiphonally: From Psalm 104, translated by N.C. Merrill

A Bless O Radiant One, My soul! Heart of my heart, you are very
great. You are clothed in justice and mercy, dressed in Light as your raiment.

B: You stretch over the heavens like a tent, Your Radiance covering the waters:
You shine through the clouds, and ride on the wings of the wind,

A: The wind like the Breath of Life, carries your Word: fire refines the
dross of our souls,

B Through your Word, grass came forth for the cattle, and plants for us
to cultivate,

A; That we might have food from the earth, and wine, the fruit of the vine,

B: Oil and healing herbs of many varieties, and bread, our daily sustenance.

A: The trees are watered abundantly and with the sun,

B: And you provide the air we breathe.

A: Every living creature has its home: the birds nest in trees, the wild
goats upon the mountaintop ;even the rocks provide protection.

B The sun that rises and sets in beauty.

A: You who know all hearts, how manifold are your works!

B: In wisdom you have created them all; the earth is filled with your creatures, we look to the seas , great and
wide, which team with life innumerable, helping to maintain the balance.

A: How good it would be to receive your gifts, taking only what is needed with grateful hearts.

B. All creation looks to You, to give them their food in due season.

A: When we are in harmony with you the earth provides; yes a bountiful harvest to be shared with all.

B: When we misuse what You have created for us, we blame You for the famine and destruction that ensues
and feel alienated from You.

1.

B: Even so You continue to send forth your Spirit, and the earth, though not without turmoil , is renewed.

A: You are ever present to us , even as the earth trembles, even as the mountains spew forth ashes and smoke

B: I will give myself into your hands as long as I live;

B: I will sing praise to You while I have breath.

ALL: May all who feel separated from you open their hearts to New Life!

Praise the Creator of the universe! Bless the Heart of my Heart, Amen

2.

Reading from Laudato Si of Pope Francis : p 13-14(Reader 1)

Prayer and Reflection and Penitence

Leader:

We have forgotten who we are

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We are sorry

Response: **We have forgotten who we are.**

Leader:

We have sought only our own security
We have exploited simply for our own ends
We have distorted our knowledge
We have abused our power.
We are sorry

Response: **We have forgotten who we are.**

Leader:

Now the land is barren
And the waters are poisoned
And the air is polluted.
We are sorry

Response: **We have forgotten who we are.**

Leader:

Now the forests are dying
And the creatures are disappearing
And humans are despairing.
We are sorry

Response: **We have forgotten who we are.**

Leader:

We ask forgiveness
We ask for the gift of remembering
We ask for the strength to change.
We are sorry

Response: **We have forgotten who we are.**
(Allow for a period of silence)

Leader:

To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air
We choose life

Response: **We join with the earth and with each other.**

Leader:

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We choose life

Response: **We join with the earth and with each other.**

Leader:

To celebrate the seas

To rejoice in the sunlight

To sing the song of the stars

We choose life

Response: **We join with the earth and with each other.**

Leader:

To recall our destiny

To renew our spirits

To reinvigorate our bodies

We choose life

Response: **We join with the earth and with each other.**

Leader:

To recreate the human community

To promote justice and peace

To remember our children

We choose life

Response:

We join with the earth and with each other.

All:

**We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:
for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.**

(silence)

Reader 2.: Poem : To Weavers Everywhere

God is weeping,

the beautiful creation tapestry

She wove with such joy

Is mutilated, torn to shreds

reduced to rags

Its beauty fragmented by force.

God is weeping,

but Look!

**She is gathering up the shreds
To weaving something new.**

**God sits weaving,
Patiently, persistently
With a smile that radiates like a rainbow
On her tear streaked face.**

**And she invites us
Not only to keep offering her
The shreds and rags of our suffering
And our work
But even more -
To take our place beside her
At the loom
And weave with her
The tapestry of the new creation. Marcienne Reinstra**

Credo (European Christian Ecology Network 2014) Three Readers A,B,C

Respond: I BELIEVE.

A. I believe the God of Creation is an incomprehensible mystery whose Life is poured into all things. And is shared with the whole of Creation...

B. I believe in God's revelation of himself in all of creation. And that Everyone has access to this revelation in nature: I BELIEVE

C I believe in God the Creator of Creation, in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of Creation, in the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier of Creation.

A. I believe in the love of God that created the world, "The Love here that moves the sun and other stars". I BELIEVE

B. I believe that in Jesus Christ, and we all live in the hope that the whole of creation will be restored to unity with God, its Creator.. Christian believers, are co-creator in this work.

C. I believe that God will give capacity to persons of faith to be effective in caring for Creation.

A. I believe in the saving power of personal and community prayer, which done with deep faith, will restore right relationships with creation. Right relationships with other persons and all of creation is as important as our rapport with the Almighty God.

A. I am involved because creation belongs to my God and Saviour and I am responsible to respect it, and handle it as best I can. I am called to be the gardener, in God's garden, the world.

C I believe that God created the world; that we are made in the image of God. As followers of Jesus we have a responsibility, as his gardeners to keep justice and sustainability alive in the world community and that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

A. I believe the Holy Spirit is breathing in the whole of creation today. All of reality is sacred – a sacrament. Jesus brought this into consciousness and ritualised it for all time in the Eucharist - God providing and our gratitude. Bread and wine represents all of reality.

B. I believe in the love of God, that he loves me and takes me into his heart and changes my personality to be a loving person, so that I myself show love for my fellow humans as well as all other living creatures, and the earth as a whole. The love of God makes me forget 'myself' – my egotism, and think first of other people and all of life.

C. I believe that saying thanks to the Creator for our daily bread is a powerful counterweight to greed, consumerism and the false idea that we are in control of our life.

A. I believe the God of Creation is an incomprehensible mystery who pours his life in to all things and shares it with all of his creation.

B. I believe the Eucharistic feast is the source of our daily bread. In its spiritual power we can be lead to an appreciation of more equitable attitudes to consumption patterns and more responsible action for God's Creation.

**C. I believe that I am the bread,
taken, blessed, broken and given to the world.
like the bread Jesus took, blessed, broke and gave to the crowd of 5,000
and like the bread Jesus Himself is.**

**A. I believe we have enough words, enough books, enough opportunities for discussion and study, preaching and church information.
The time has come to love the land, to pray, act and love
So that practical divinity is earthed in us, with others, organisations and communities
in relation to the God who is creative but waits in love for love to move our hearts**

**for love to live in us as we live in love
and meet is in love's longing for the other
which is all matter and all energy
Love's energy embodied in love's creation.**

**B. I believe in God, who created the universe,
Christ who released it from all that is going towards
Death, and in Holy Spirit, who guides us and
gives new hope to the world.**

**A: B: C. We are called to be God's partners in this
wonderful time of Creation.**

(Silent Moment to add a Personal Credo)

Reading from 'Laudato Si': No.243 -244 (Reader 4)

Song : Laudato Si (Damian Lundy from St. Francis of Assisi)

Refrain : 'Laudato Si O mio Signore' x 4 ('Praise be to you, my Lord')

**Yes be praised in all your creatures, Brother Sun and Sister Moon
in the stars and in the wind, air and fire and flowing water.**

**For our sister, Mother Earth, she who feeds us and sustains us:
For her fruit, her grass, her flowers. For the mountains and the oceans.**

**Praise for those who spread forgiveness, those who share your peace with others,
Bearing trials and sickness bravely! Even sister death won't harm them.**

**For our life is all a song, and the reason for our singing
Is to praise you for the music, Join the dance of your creation.
Praise to you, Father most holy, praise and thanks to you, Lord Jesus.
Praise to you, most Holy Spirit, Life and joy of all creation**

Concluding Prayer: From the PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS in 'Laudato SI'

**God of Love, show us our place in this world
As channels of your love**

**For all the creatures of this earth,
For not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
That they may avoid the sin of indifference,
That they may love the common good,
Advance the weak,
And care for this world in which we live.
The poor of the earth are crying out.**

**O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
Help us to protect all life,
To prepare for a better future,
For the coming of your kingdom
Of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you! Amen.**

BLESSING

In the name of God the Maker of all; Of Jesus our Christ, our New Covenant, and of the Holy Spirit, who opens eyes, minds and hearts. Amen

O Beauty ever ancient, ever new; with Augustine we say ‘too little and too late have we loved you’ Keep us in a love that is tender and true, that is strong; Today, tonight, tomorrow and always. Amen