

# CREATION REDEEMED

## AWAKE

We invite you to take part in the **Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon** as preparation for our devotion, Creation Redeemed.

As you awake each morning, the world is radiant with light streaming through your window, a birdsong heard from a tree limb tossing in the breeze, or the scent of pine or honeysuckle wafting through an open doorway. Awakening to creation is to simply recognize that, for better or for worse, we share a common atmosphere and destiny with all that is around us—animal, vegetable and mineral.

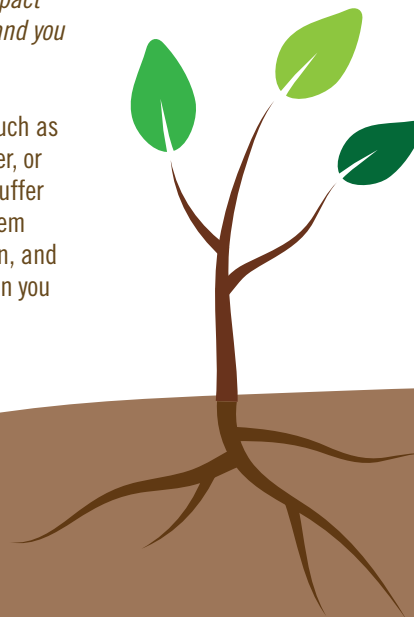
The Hebrew prophets, during Israel's captivity in Babylon (597-538 BC), imagined their redemption within the wider scope of creation: *"But the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."* Habakkuk 2:14

## AWARE

Best known for her research with chimpanzees, researcher and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall encourages environmental preservation by reminding us that humans are inescapably connected to the natural world:

*"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."*

It is rightly said that we are not punished for our sins as much as by our sins. Whenever we poison the purity of our air or water, or diminish the resources found in the "web of life," we also suffer by the effects of what we have done, or failed to do, to redeem creation. Pope Francis has said that global warming is a sin, and that protecting creation is an act of mercy. In what ways can you act as an aware and merciful steward of creation?



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## ALIVE

A synonym for being fully alive is to be renewed, or to be “as new” all over again. To the newly converted at the church of Corinth, the Apostle Paul extended this gift of aliveness to all—affirming them as one with creation by saying:

*So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Count the many ways that this time of challenge is not only a “passing away” of what we once took for granted, but a time that will lead us, much like nature being redeemed from the paralysis of winter into the vibrancy of spring, into a new day of hope.

## ABIDE

As we find ourselves abiding in isolation to maintain a healthy separation from others, we also have freedom to selectively move amidst nature by walking along greenways, waterfronts and open fields that have a lot to teach us... whenever we take time to listen. The German poet Rainer Maria Rilke, in *“Book of Hours: Love Poems to God,”* spoke of our earthly pilgrimage as one of abiding with creation:

*If we surrendered  
to earth's intelligence  
we could rise up rooted, like trees.*

## ARISE

Being rooted to our loving Creator who helps us rise every morning like resilient trees, go forward into your day as if it is a new day of redemption—a day of promise that we anticipate as heaven and nature sings.

- Listen to the Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon daily.
- Check in with your partner or virtual group.
- Continue to make contributions to your journal.

Write your reflections here

