**Holy Hour for the Season of Creation: Jubilee for the Earth**

**Opening prayer: (as the Zoom prayer time begins)**

We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures! Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.  (Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

**Leader:** As we gather together around the Eucharist, let us listen to the words of the hymn, *Canticle of the Sun,* which is based on the Canticle of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi:

**Refrain:** The heavens are telling the glory of God and all creation is shouting for joy. Come, dance in the forest, come play in the field, and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord. **(All say refrain at beginning and end; verses read by different readers, if possible)**

1. Sing to the sun, the bringer of day, he carries the light of the Lord in his rays; The moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne.
2. Praise to the wind that blows through the trees, the seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze; they blow where they will, they blow where they please to please the Lord.
3. Praise to the rain that waters our fields and blesses our crops so all the earth yields; from death unto life her mystery revealed springs forth in joy.
4. Praise to the fire who gives us his light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night; he dances with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of you.
5. Sing to the earth who makes life to grow, the creatures you made to let your life show; the flowers and trees that help us to know the heart of love.
6. Praise to our death that makes our life real, the knowledge of loss that helps us to feel; the gift of yourself, your presence revealed to lead us home.

**Time for Quiet Prayer (5-6 minutes)**

**Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20**

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**Time for Quiet Prayer (5-6 minutes)**

**Prayers**

**Reader 1:** All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Creative Spirit,

**Reader 2:** enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

**Reader 1:** O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Creative Spirit,

**Reader 2**: enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

**Reader 1:** Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Creative Spirit,

**Reader 2:** enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

**Reader 1 :** In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.

**Reader 2:** enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

**Reader 1 :** We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit,

 **Reader 2:** enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

**Time for Quiet Prayer (5 minutes)**

**Leader:** Let us sum up our prayers, remembering especially all the needs of our parish, particularly the sick and those who are most vulnerable economically because of this pandemic as we pray: **Our Father**

**Leader: Closing Prayer: Season of Creation 2020 Prayer**

Creator of Life, At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life.

Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.