

## FAMILY PRAYER SERVICE FOR EARTH DAY 2025

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### OPENING PRAYER

**Compassionate and loving God**, you created the world for all of us to share, a world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

**Creator God**, you gave us responsibility for the earth, a world of riches and delight.

Create in us a desire to live sustainably, so that those who follow after us may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

**God of peace and justice**, you give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.

Amen.

### Reading from Laudato Si':

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 200 years. Each year sees the disappearance of hundreds of plants and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?

### Reading from the Book of Job 12:7-10

But ask the animals, and they will teach you: the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

### Questions for Reflection:

- What in your daily landscape inspires awe and wonder?
- How have you experienced loss in your community from the mistreatment of our common home?
- In what concrete ways is your family called to care for God's creation?

### Closing : Chief Seattle

Every part of the earth is sacred, every shining pine needle, every sandy shore  
Every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy.

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all the people,  
All belong to the same family. Teach your children that the earth is our mother;  
whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.  
The water's murmur is the voice of our father's father.  
We are part of the earth, and the earth is part of us.  
The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.  
The perfumed flowers are our sisters.  
The air is precious for all of us share the same breath.  
The wind that gave our grandparents breath also receives their last sigh.  
The wind gave our children the spirit of life.  
This we know: the earth does not belong to us; We belong to the earth.  
We know: all things are connected. Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for  
all.  
For we did not weave the web of life: we are merely a strand in it.  
Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us. Thanks be to God, the God of all.  
Amen