

Opening Worship

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”



GREETING

I greet you in the name of God:
who created Planet Earth and planned for its peace, beauty and fullness.

(Laudato Si #53)

God be with you.
And also with you.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Indigenous communities and their cultural traditions should be the principal dialogue partners in [the care of the earth]. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there...

(Laudato Si #146)

And so we acknowledge the [Insert name of local First Peoples] people, the Sovereign First Peoples of the land on which we gather today. We commit ourselves to learn from First Peoples about the care of the earth and to continue to work for justice and healing in this country.



CONFESSION

God who spread out the earth on the waters, whose steadfast love endures forever,

we have claimed absolute dominion over the earth through our arrogance, carelessness and greed.

We do not always seek the blossoming of freedom, salvation, growth and love;
but apply our intelligence to pursue decadence and mutual destruction.

(Laudato Si #79)



God who wishes to work with us, we pray that you will bring good out of the evil we have done.

Loosen the knots of human affairs, continue the work of your creation in us and, by your Spirit, allow something new to emerge.

Embrace and illumine us in your love, draw us into the fullness of the risen Christ, and bring us home to you.

Amen.

(Laudato Si # 80, 83)



WORD OF GRACE

No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful. God gives us the ability to respond to God's grace at work deep in our hearts.

All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom.

(Laudato Si #205)

Therefore we are confident to say:

Our sins are forgiven!

Our hopes are restored!

Thanks be to God!



THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.



UNISON PRAYER FOR
OUR EARTH

POPE FRANCIS

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.



UNISON PRAYER FOR
OUR EARTH

POPE FRANCIS

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.



UNISON PRAYER FOR
OUR EARTH

POPE FRANCIS

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.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen



SENDING OUT OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Let us sing as we go into this meeting and then into the world.

May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give God our all, offers us the light and the strength needed on our way.

In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. God does not abandon us, or leave us alone, for God is united definitively to our earth, and God's love constantly impels us forward.

Praise be to God!

Laudato Si #244, 245

