

Prayer at a Pollinator Sanctuary (or other Sacred Space)

A Climate Justice Project of the Sisters of the Divine Savior <https://www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/>

A Pollinator Sanctuary offers a sacred and safe place for pollinators (birds, bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, bats, beetles and other living things) to rest, eat, and be safe. A Pollinator Sanctuary can also be a sacred space for humans. Sacredness can be expressed and honored in so many ways. Shared prayer is one way. The following prayer, adapted from several sources, can be used individually or in a group. It can become a way to celebrate Earth Day (April 22, international), feast days (such as those honoring St. Francis of Assisi or other holy people), World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Sept. 1), or any of dozens of days or weeks chosen by the United Nations to focus on our Earth, people, and actions (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks>) .

Opening: Music of Choice

Perhaps live music/song or a recording. Some suggestions: **How Great Thou Art** <https://youtu.be/USM71JqV30o>; **How Great is Our God** <https://youtu.be/CITjo9QsHaM> or a listening song such as **So Will I** <https://youtu.be/FA4Vayl8G74> .

Leader: We gather together here in this small sanctuary, a space we have tended and planted. It is a space in which we have placed our hopes for the Earth and for the creatures that are our relatives. We stand in awe of the ways small things- like seeds and soil, water and sunlight, birds and bees and other pollinators- can make a difference in Life. We stand in gratitude for the glorious gift of creation. We ask God's help as we learn how to more deeply care for our world.

Together: (*Vigil for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, CAFOD.org.uk, adapted)

God of all creation,
Your spirit dances throughout the universe.
You give drink to the trees,
Shade to the birds,
Food to the hungry.
You bring life and you make all things holy.

Fill us also with your grace,
Empower us with your Spirit
So that we may not only sow
Seeds of life-giving flowers
But also
Seeds of love, justice, peace, and beauty.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus, Savior of the World.
Amen.

Choice of Readings from [Laudato Si](#) . Some possibilities:

- LS [1-2]
- LS [11]
- LS [33]
- LS [34]

Litany of Creation (Adapted from *Litany of Praise*, source unknown, from <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/liturgy/litanies>)

Left: *"The Earth. . . is a sparkling blue and white jewel. . . laced with slowly swirling veils of white. . . like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery."* (Edgar Mitchell, US Astronaut)

Response by All: *"All creation is a song of praise to God."* (Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)

Right: *"O moving force of Wisdom, you encircle the wheel of the cosmos, you encompass all that is, all that has life, in one vast circle."* (Hildegard of Bingen) **-R-**

Left: *"It could be that god has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle, powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem."* (Annie Dillard, naturalist writer) **-R-**

Right: *". . . stardust is not just fairy-tale magic; it is what we are really made of. . ."* (Elisabet Sahtouris, Ecofeminist) **-R-**

Left: *"Great Spirit, . . . give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! . . . all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike. . . This is my prayer; hear me!"* (Black Elk, Oglala Lakota) **-R-**

Right: *"There is not anything new to be born. It has been within you from the beginningless beginning. It has only to be awakened, to become aware of itself in you."* (Zen saying) **-R-**

Left: *". . . for in God we live/ and move/ and have our being."* (Acts 17:28) **-R-**

Right: *". . . When you stand in the presence of the moon, you become a new creation. . . The elementary particles of your body have absorbed an influence and in that sense they--and you--are brand spanking new, a human being resonating everywhere with moonlight."* (Brian Swimme, physicist) **-R-**

Left: *"We shall not cease from exploration/ And the end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time."* (T. S. Eliot, poet) **-R-**

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we now take a few moments to look at the work of our hands, here in this small garden, and the work of your hands, which surrounds us in all of creation. We pray in petition, knowing you hear us. We pray in gratitude, expressing what we hold in our hearts.... (extend an invitation to pray for or with someone/something and/or in gratitude to God for something).

... let us pray...

... **-R- Hear us, gracious God of all creation.**

Leader: Together, let us recall God’s blessing on this small piece of creation, this small piece of Earth. As we celebrate God’s blessing of this Pollinator Sanctuary, please raise your hand in blessing. Together:

**Creator God, Saving God, Sanctifying God-
You made the cosmos and
you fill it with your love.
We know you are present
here among us,
connecting us all in sacred relationship
to the entire Universe.**

**Bless this, our Pollinator Sanctuary.
Let the work of our hands and the hope of our hearts
honor this holy place.
Let it be a place of life and respite
for our brothers and sisters the butterflies and bees,
insects, birds and mammals.**

**Bless all our brothers and sisters-
all of these seeds and plants,
flowers and soil, and creatures of every type.**

**Through our relationships with them,
teach us to treasure our
relatives across all our Earth,
that they may be protected,
encouraged, and full of life.**

Praise be to you, my Lord! Amen

Gratitude Song (Thank you song, Lakota, sung by two students from Tiospa Zina Tribal School, South Dakota. <https://youtu.be/LBAKsvKXA94>) or other song of gratitude.

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Resources for Additional Prayer(s)

<https://www.one-tab.com/page/hLr322xrT22jYOv0dmb2IA> or scan

