

The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Bishop's Commission on Liturgy and the Arts

Late Summer 2023

Preparing for a Season of Creation

Diocesan Convention 2022 approved a Season of Creation, extending from September 1, the ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Creation, through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. For more on the Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>. Here is Episcopal Church website for the SOC: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/season-of-creation-and-st-francis-day-resources/>

To assist preachers, intercessors, musicians, and teachers who will use the Season of Creation framework as their guide for homiletical, liturgical, musical, and catechetical preparation, the Commission on Liturgy and the Arts is providing a number of resources.



What to expect. If the Season of Creation is new to the parish, it will be helpful to offer an introduction to the SOC *prior* to September 1 through the parish newsletter, with a paragraph in the Sunday worship program, in an adult forum, on the parish website, and/or in a separate flier that alerts parishioners to its purpose. Letting people know what's coming gives them time to reflect on the **sixth baptismal promise** approved by General Convention: "Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?"

The SOC theme for 2023 is **Let Justice and Peace Flow** and the primary image is that of a river, **a mighty river** - of which we have many in Western Washington. Here is the SOC guide for 2023: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/145WzDi32U8YdlyY9Peo1bn-aLqyi4cl6/view> - a thorough introduction to this year's theme with an array of helpful ideas concerning the season.

For **preachers, intercessors, and teachers**, consider these lectionary commentaries:

Season of Creation: <https://preachingforgodsworld.org/>

Catholic Climate Covenant Commentary: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14>

Earth Bible Commentary: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/series/earth-bible-commentary/>

Greening the Lectionary (Church of England): <https://www.greeningthelectionary.net/>

Lutherans Restoring Creation: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/worship/lectionary-commentaries/>

The Wild Lectionary: <https://radicaldiscipleship.net/tag/wild-lectionary/>

Gail Ramshaw, “Creation,” “Fire,” “Garden,” “Harvest,” “Light,” “Mountain,” “Tree,” “Water,” “Wind,” in *Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary* (Fortress Press, 2014)

For **musicians**, consider these sources:

“Creation,” in *Sing a New Creation*

All Creation Sings (ELCA)

Season of Creation hymn recommendations: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Hymn-Recommendations-for-Season-of-Creation-2018.pdf>

Creation hymns: <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Creation-Centered-Hymns.pdf>

We also direct your attention to these authorized resources:

Intercessions for the creation in the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*

in *The Book of Occasional Services 2022*: Rogation Procession; A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden; St Francis Day/Blessing of Animals; and Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation

in *Enriching Our Worship 1*: A Song of the Wilderness; A Song of Judith; A Song of the Heavenly City; Eucharistic Prayer 2; and Eucharistic Prayer 3.

We hope these resources encourage and support our common commitment “to protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation.” Should you have questions regarding the Season of Creation, send an email to the Rev. Samuel Torvend, chair, Commission on Liturgy and the Arts, at:

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Photograph credit: Lisa Parsons, “Evening on the Green River Gorge” 2016