

Station 1

Seeing God in Creation

“The earth was here before us and it has been given to us.”

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #67

We are called to experience God through nature. We can connect with our Creator by simply taking a walk outside and seeking out the beauty in everything around us.

Scripture also speaks of encountering God in creation. ‘For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.’ Romans 1:20

Creation sings of God’s qualities and magnitudes. We need only look around.

Activity

- Watch the video PowerPoint ‘[Indescribable](#)’
- Write down ways in which you recognise God through creation, for example: the oceans show God’s depth, the flowers show God’s beauty
- Find and reflect on these Scripture verses that reference experiencing God in nature: [Job 12:7-10](#), [Psalm 95:4-6](#), [Psalm 104:5-30](#)
- Read the excerpt from [Psalm 19](#) (overleaf) as a prayer of thanks

How clearly the sky reveals God's glory!
How plainly it shows what he has done!
Each day announces it to the following day;
each night repeats it to the next.
No speech or words are used,
no sound is heard;
yet their message goes out to all the world
and is heard to the ends of the earth.
God made a home in the sky for the sun;
it comes out in the morning like a happy bridegroom,
like an athlete eager to run a race.
It starts at one end of the sky
and goes across to the other.
Nothing can hide from its heat.

Psal/m 19:1-6

Father, we recognise your glory in creation and thank
you for it
in the name of your son, Jesus.
Amen

Station 2

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

“This sister, [the earth], now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.”

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #2

We have failed to care for the earth and God's creation. Some of us have taken more than our fair share of the world's natural resources, and left our sisters and brothers around the world with nothing. We have failed to care for those most in need. Without compassion for our fellow human beings, it is impossible to live in harmony with the rest of creation.

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis tells us that “When all these relationships are neglected, when justice no longer dwells in the land, the Bible tells us that life itself is endangered.” *Laudato Si'* #70

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and recognise that our careless mistreatment of all creation has caused incredible harm.

Activity

- Write down on a large piece of paper ways that we, collectively, damage God's creation—the environment, plants, animals and our fellow human beings.
- Take time to look over what you and others have written. In a time of quiet, acknowledge these sins before God.
- Ask God for forgiveness for these things and ask God to give you an understanding of what it means to care for our common home.
- Read the prayer (overleaf) written by Pope Francis.

All powerful God,
you are present in the 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 your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
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.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise 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

Father, we recognise your glory in creation and thank you
for it
in the name of your son, Jesus.

Amen

Station 3

Solidarity with our global neighbours

“The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.”

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #13

The earth is our common home. Our neighbours live globally – we are all part of one human family. And, each one of us has the talents needed to contribute to the caring for, and repairing of, our common home.

This Season of Creation, we can show our commitment to caring for our common home, by acting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. One way we can do this is by taking actions to begin to heal the earth, where we all live.

It's not too late, there is hope. If we act now, together.

Activity

- Write down on the paper ways that we can better look after creation and one another. Add actions that are both big and small, local and global, personal and collective.
- Stick your actions to the map or globe as a visual sign of our collective solidarity with our global neighbours

Father, we recognise your glory in creation and thank you
for it in the name of your son, Jesus.
Amen

Station 4

Water is Life

“Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival...”

Pope Francis

Water was made sacred through Jesus’ baptism and we have a responsibility to treat it as such, making sure everyone has enough. Today over 785 million people around the world don’t have clean water to drink.

Water is a precious natural resource. It has the power to sustain life but can also cause damage through extreme rainfall and flooding. For communities who rely on predictable rains for farming, climate change is making life more difficult. Around the world, floods and droughts are happening more often due to climate change and for people living in some of the world’s poorest countries it is devastating.

The Season of Creation is a time to reflect on the power and beauty of creation and also to take action to protect the earth for everyone.

Water is essential for people, plants and animals to survive. We must work together to make sure everyone has a fair share of this precious natural resource.

Activity

- Read the case study (overleaf)
- Reflecting on the case study write a prayer on the water droplet template.
This could be:
 - A prayer of thanksgiving for those who have received help
 - A prayer of thanksgiving for clean water here in Scotland
 - A prayer of intercession for those who don’t have clean water to drink
 - A prayer of intercession for people to protect creation

Water is Life

Water is precious. For communities who survive by farming, changes in weather patterns and an increase in floods and droughts is making life really difficult.

SCIAF are supporting more than 1,000 farming families in Kabwe, Zambia to help them survive through extreme changes in the weather.



This is Kahumbu, one of the farmers. She has learned how to farm organically, producing crops in harmony with the land. For her family – her five children and six grandchildren – the training has provided some certainty for the future. And, this year, has resulted in her harvesting maize, beans, ground nuts, lentils and vegetables.

“I have grown enough food for my family. Even with little rain, we will not go hungry this year.”

Kahumbu

Father, we recognise your glory in creation and thank you for it in the name of your son, Jesus.
Amen

Station 5

Education

“Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us”

Pope Francis Laudato Si #211

Our actions have an impact on people and the planet. It is all of our responsibility to learn about ways we can have a positive impact on people and the planet. There is hope. If we act now, we can begin to heal our common home and help our sisters and brothers in need.

If we spend time learning during the Season of Creation, we can multiply the impact we have by sharing our knowledge with others.

Education is fundamental to repairing our relationship with creation.

Activity

Pope Francis is hopeful that young people like you will lead the way in caring for creation by using your curiosity, passion and activism. Make a list of related topics you would like to learn more about.

For example:

- Renewable energy, recycling or upcycling
- Sustainable and organic farming
- Climate change and its effects on people and planet
- Fair trade farming and products

Father, we recognise your glory in creation and thank you
for it in the name of your son, Jesus.

Amen