

## Caring for God's world



## SEASON OF CREATION

With a summer of scorching temperatures here in the UK and across the globe, poor harvests due to the lack of rain, catastrophic wildfires around the world and flooding of biblical proportions in India and Japan amongst other places, we cannot fail to be aware that our planet's climate seems to be changing. It is increasingly harder for us to ignore this or to deny that our human activity has had something to do with this change.

Christians around the world have become increasingly aware of the importance of taking heed of God's command to us to be good stewards of the earth. In response to this, there is an increasing encouragement to mark 'Creationtide' or a Season of Creation starting on 1<sup>st</sup> September and running through until 4<sup>th</sup> October, the day on which the Church remembers St Francis of Assisi. (The significance of 1<sup>st</sup> September is that it is the start of the New Year for the Orthodox Church and in 2016, Pope Francis declared it to be a "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.") This is also a time of the year when we in the UK celebrate Harvest, and this season focussing on the whole of creation reminds us that successful harvests are reliant on a planet which is being cared for and where the environment is not being damaged by human actions.

There are lots of resources online with activities, prayers, Bible readings and reflections (see [www.creationtide.com](http://www.creationtide.com)) but if you don't have access to the internet, then why not decide to set aside time each day to give thanks to God for

the beauty of creation and to pray for those parts of our world where people are struggling because of climate change and natural disasters. You might like to read through the story of creation in Genesis chapter 1 or to read some of the psalms which praise creation.

Perhaps you could make some decisions to take some practical actions which even if just in a small way will show your commitment to care for our planet, such as: reduce plastic usage, walk instead of using the car, recycling as much as possible, reduce food wastage – just buy what is needed, buy local food rather than items which have flown halfway round the world.....

This Season of Creation, let's play our part through prayer and practical action, in cherishing God's creation



Creator God, the whole earth sings of your glory.  
From the grandeur of the mountains and the forests to the  
quieter beauty of field and garden,  
Your hand is seen and praise resounds.  
From the sure-footed sheep and cattle to the crops in the  
field Your hand is seen and praise resounds.  
From our care of creation, to our care of one another;  
Your hand is seen and praise resounds.  
Creator God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit all the world  
belongs to you, receive our praise.

