

Stations of Creation



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Originally compiled by Colin Wilfred SSF

These Stations of Creation, based on St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures, (following the pattern of the Stations of the Cross) can be used in the order they are or woven within the Eucharist and make up the Penitence and the Bible readings, the Prayers and our commitment to God's good earth and each other. The text owes much to 'Earthsongs' by Wayne Simsic, (St Mary's Press, USA) and was first used at Compton- Durville for a conference on the Care of Creation.

Andrew Dotchin tssf - Lent 2023

1. God of the Universe
2. Brother Sun
3. Sister Moon and the stars
4. Brother Wind
5. Sister Water
6. Brother Fire
7. Sister Mother Earth - animals, birds, insects
8. Sister Mother Earth - flowers and trees
9. Forgiveness from God for misuse of creation
10. Sister Death
11. God's Holy Will
12. Blessing God, serving with Humility

STATION I - God of the Universe

Most High, all powerful, good Lord to you be the praises,
the glory and the honour, and all blessing.

**To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no-one
is worthy to call upon your name.**

Bible Reading: *Psalm 36v5-10*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Help us grow in a consciousness which embraces the vastness of interstellar space and the minuteness of a drop of water and a snowflake. Help us realise it is our joy and responsibility to meet you at the centre of this beautiful world you have created, moving beyond self-interest to values that protect the environment that all may share in peace and justice.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Give us a vision that embraces earth and sky, constellations and galaxies, that we may know that the whole of creation is enfolded in your enduring love made known to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION II - Brother Sun

Praised be you, our Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day
and through whom you give us light,
**He is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
and bears a likeness to you, Most High One.**

Bible Reading: *Sirach 43v2-5*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises
what a marvellous instrument it is, the work of the Most High.
At noon it parches the land,
and who can withstand its burning heat?
A man tending a furnace works in burning heat,
but three times as hot is the sun scorching the mountains;
it breathes out fiery vapours,
and its bright rays blind the eyes.
Great is the Lord who made it;
at his orders it hurries on its course.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Face to face with Sir Brother Sun, we know the immensity of his power
surpassing anything on earth and yet sustaining all that lives.
Help us delight in sunrise and sunset and be ever grateful to acknowledge the
source of our life.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Open our hearts to the light that proclaims your glory day after day.

The sky resounds with a song that rings in the hills, rises from the fields and
enlivens the rivers and the seas.

In your light may we see light through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION III - Sister Moon and the stars

Praised be you, our Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars.

In heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Bible Reading: *Sirach 43v6-10*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

It is the moon that marks the changing seasons,
governing the times, their everlasting sign.

From the moon comes the sign for festal days,

a light that wanes when it completes its course.

The new moon, as its name suggests, renews itself;^[b]

how marvellous it is in this change,

a beacon to the hosts on high,

shining in the vault of the heavens!

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven,

a glittering array in the heights of the Lord.

On the orders of the Holy One they stand

in their appointed places;

they never relax in their watches.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Holy God, thank you for the light in the darkness of Sister Moon and the stars.

We thank you for the unfolding pattern of times and seasons. Help us rediscover the natural rhythms of your creation that we may be more in tune with the universe both in the darkness and in the light of our human and earthly lives.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe;

You are the light that opens our eyes to see the divine light that penetrates the world, revealing its endless possibilities.

May our eyes be gentle and our hearts open that we may know the radiance of your timeless and transcendent love made known to us in Jesus our Redeemer.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION IV - Brother Wind

Praised be you, our Lord through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,

Through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Bible Reading: *Ecclesiastes 1 / v4-5*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

Whoever observes the wind will not sow;
and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.

Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Brother Wind is invisible and yet so powerful in its effect; he makes the tall grass sway on a summer's day, he whips up the lake into a dangerous frenzy, he causes an autumn leaf to jump and dance.

The weather is ever changing, ever full of possibilities for new life or terrible destruction. Give us compassionate hearts for those affected by natural disasters: storm or tsunami, drought or famine, and to work for a human community that protects both people and our environment.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe;

Your Spirit like the wind, sweeps through us.

Give us strength to accept her gifts of freedom and change that we may be transformed in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION V - Sister Water

Praised be you, our Lord through Sister Water

Who is useful and humble, and precious and chaste.

Bible Reading: *John 4v13-14*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

Jesus said 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Sister Water, you are so useful and yet you are so humble that we may be constantly tempted to ignore you and not treat you reverently as source of both life and beauty. Help us delight in the sweet liquid that flows from the hills and springs out of the depths of the earth.

May we work together that your human children may share plentifully in this precious gift for our sustenance, cleansing and delight.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Your gift of water refreshes our spirit and delights our imagination.

In it you offer us both hope and rebirth.

Help us to share this gift generously in the spirit of Him who is the living water, Jesus our Saviour.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION VI - Brother Fire

Praised be you, our Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light up the night,
He is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Bible Reading: *1 Corinthians 3v13-15*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

For that day dawns in fire, and the fire will test the worth of each man's work. If a man's building stands, he will be rewarded: if it burns, he will have to bear the loss; and yet he will escape with his life, as one might from a fire. The work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Brother Fire, on a winter's night, with your dancing flames we see your beauty and your playfulness. Down the ages, men, women and children have gathered around you for warmth and comfort, to tell stories and to prepare for rest in the struggle for life.

In wildfires we witness your incredible power for destruction yet marvel at the regeneration of trees and shrubs and plants this brings.

Help us to treat you with love and respect.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

For Brother fire, a symbol of your life-giving and challenging Spirit; ever dancing in the light, destroying our deadness and bringing renewal to our lives in Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION VII - Sister Mother Earth and animals

Praised be you, our Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
Who sustains us and governs us.

Bible Reading: Job 38v4-7

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements - surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?’

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Creator God, ‘*the fragile earth, our island home*’ is truly both our Sister and our Mother. Maternally, she is both the source and the sustainer of life and the life of all animals and birds, insects and reptiles. She is the sister with whom all our human sisters and brothers are members of the same family. Help us delight in our life-giving earth which is alive and dynamic ever singing its praises to you. May we guard her life with love and tender care that we may always walk gently upon her.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Teach us to see our Sister Mother Earth not as property but as a bearer of your revelation of love.

Deepen our sense of the interdependence of life with her.

Help us hear and feel the music of sky and sea, mountains and deserts; the eternal song of the divine Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION VIII - Sister Mother Earth and plants

Praised be you, our Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
Who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs

Bible Reading: *Deuteronomy 8v7-10*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

You promised your people a fertile land, a land of promise that would flourish under your care-giving eye. We rejoice in the never-ending kaleidoscope of flowers and trees, the harvest of the fruits of the earth and the herbs which flavour our lives. Help us to grow in respect and appreciation of the land you have entrusted to us particularly by what we buy and what we consume, that all may be truly enriched.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

You give us the seasons, the planting and the harvesting as we share in the work of creation. May we listen attentively to the needs of the soil and, loving the land as we love ourselves, share its bounty in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION IX - Forgiveness from God for misuse of creation

Praised be you, our Lord, through those who forgive
for love of you, and bear weakness and tribulation.

**Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by you, Most High, shall they be crowned.**

Bible Reading: *Psalm 103* v1,3,12-13,17

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

as far as the east is from the west,

so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,

so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting

on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

We need the forgiveness of God for our selfishness and greed, our exploitation and money-grabbing. Our use of power to destroy the weak and fragile, our thoughtlessness of the needs of others, the needs of our earth which is God's earth. In our weakness and tribulation help us not to lose heart but to endure in peace, that our world and the whole human family may be crowned with all-embracing love and deep humility.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Giver of harmony and interweaving love; help us live as kinfolk with all your creatures. As we appreciate them in their own right may we learn from them all that will help us to live in peace with creation in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION X - Sister Death

Praised be you, our Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Bible Reading: *Sirach 41v1-4*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

O death, how bitter is the thought of you
to one at peace among possessions,
who has nothing to worry about and is prosperous in everything,
and still is vigorous enough to enjoy food!

O death, how welcome is your sentence
to one who is needy and failing in strength,
worn down by age and anxious about everything;
to one who is contrary, and has lost all patience!

Do not fear death's decree for you;
remember those who went before you and those
who will come after.

This is the Lord's decree for all flesh;
why then should you reject the will of the Most High?

Whether life lasts for ten years or a hundred or a thousand,
there are no questions asked in Hades.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Everything in the world, including us, dies. If we stand on a hillside almost everything, if we look carefully, is in the process of dying in front of us. But without this marvel of nature which is constantly renewed we would be surrounded by stones and deserts. Help us see the life which is your gift new every morning.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe,

You renew this lovely earth through the rhythm of life and death. Help us see your hand in all life, the creator and source of all things.

May we live in a harmony of hope found in Jesus our Saviour.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION XI - God's Holy Will

Blessed are those whom death will find doing your most holy will,
For the second death will do them no harm.

Bible Reading: *Psalm 25v4-5,10*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

Loving God we know that a heart which is open and full of love is the truest compass pointing the way to you. May your holy wisdom guide us to trust that path rather than the one paved with our own interests and concerns. Give us strength to follow the road less travelled which leads to you beyond all forms of death.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Companion and guide you help us to find the path of humility, love and joy.

Watching over us in pathways that are both rough and smooth you guide us to treasure the earth and each other that we may know we are travelling to you with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

STATION XII - Blessing God, serving with Humility

Praise and bless our Lord and give him thanks
And serve him with great humility.

Bible Reading: *Jude 24-25*

Listen for the word of the Lord

Our ears are open.

Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Blessed be God for ever..

By the word of God

Our souls are fed.

Reflection:

The transformation of heaven and earth does not happen only at the end of time. The universe, this earth and all things visible and invisible, are already being drawn with cords of love to find their fulfilment in the Christ of the whole cosmos. Help us serve you with a humility that is profound and with a love that is without bounds.

Silence

Prayer:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:

Your plan and purpose is to draw all of creation to yourself. Help us uncover a vision of hope for the whole earth, when all things shall be made new in Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who is alive and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Blessed be God for ever! [Alleluia!]