

# Stations of Creation

We are familiar with the idea of the Stations of the Cross used in Lent. This devotion, based on St. Francis' Cantic of the Creatures [or *Laudes Creaturarum* (Praise of the Creatures)] can be used at any time. It is suitable for both individuals or groups. It can be accompanied by music and/or 'visuals' or conducted outside in the natural world.

The text is adapted from Wayne Simsic's *Earthsongs*, (St Mary's Press, USA) and was first used at Compton Durville for a conference on the Care of Creation

These revised stations were first used on an EcoSpirituality tour in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia during the late southern autumn of 2016. Some Scriptures had been expanded in their context or, replaced to better suit the tone of that tour.

In the Creationtide Season, 2016, these stations were introduced at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Clare, as part of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which is now a worldwide ecumenical initiative.

In 2020, this publication was released for use across the Diocese of Willochra in preparation for the Season of Creation during the COVID-19 pandemic,. It was also shared, through the Anglican Creation Care Network (ACCN) to the wider Province of South Australia.

Ministry of Ecospirituality  
Anglican Diocese of Willochra  
Province of South Australia  
2020



# Station 1



Good and powerful Lord most High, to you be the praises and the glory. To you alone all blessing and honour belong, and no one is worthy to call upon your name.

## *Scripture*

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

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;  
your judgments 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! Psalm 36.5-10

## *Reflection*

Help me to develop a greater awareness of your immense creative power that embraces both the vastness of interstellar space and the minuteness of a eucalypt seed. Help me to realise that it is both my joy *and* my responsibility to meet you at the heart of this beautiful world that you have made. Help me to move beyond my own self-interest, to share peacefully resources, to pursue environmental justice and to care for the created order.

## *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 embraced in your enduring love made known to us in your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Station 2

Praise be to you, Lord God, through Brother Sun you give us light that declares the new-born day. He bears a likeness to you that is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.

## *Scripture*

The pride of the higher realms is the clear vault of the sky, as  
glorious to behold as the sight of the heavens.

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.

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 43.2-5

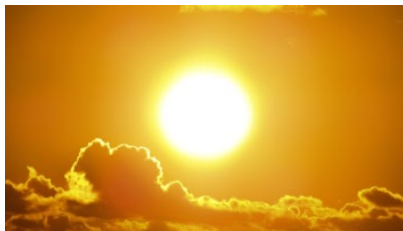
## *Reflection*

Face to face with Brother Sun, we know the immensity of his power surpassing anything on earth and yet sustaining all that lives. Help me to delight in sunrise and sunset and be grateful in acknowledging the source of my own 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. Amen.



# Station 3

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars in heaven. You formed them clear, precious and beautiful.

## *Scripture*

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; 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.

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 43.6-10

## *Reflection*

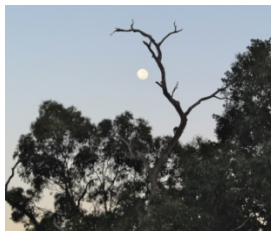
Holy God, we thank you in the night-time for the light of Sister Moon and the stars. Help us to rediscover the natural rhythms of your creation that we may be more in tune both in the darkness and in the light of our earthly lives.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe; you are the source of the divine light that penetrates the world proclaiming the rhythms of Sister Moon. May my eyes be gentle as moonlight in its endless possibilities. And may my heart be expansive in the radiance of your timeless and transcendent love made known to us in Jesus our Redeemer.

Amen.



# Station 4

We praise you, Lord, through Brother Wind. Through every kind of weather, you give sustenance to your creatures.

## *Scripture*

Send out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back.

Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.

When clouds are full, they empty rain on the earth;  
whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

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.

Ecclesiastes 11.4-5

## *Reflection*

Brother Wind is invisible and yet so powerful in his 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 the cause of terrible destruction. Give me a compassionate heart for those affected by severe storms, 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 my life. Give me the strength to accept the gift of freedom and be constantly transformed in and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



# Station 5

Praise be to you, Lord God, through Sister Water who is very precious.

## *Scripture*

[Now Jesus] left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "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."

John 4. 4-14

## *Reflection*

Sister Water, you are so necessary to our earthly existence. Yet I am tempted to ignore you and forget your value as a source of both life and beauty. Help me to delight in the vital liquid that flows down from the hills and springs out of the depths of the earth. May we all work together so that your human children can share this precious and sustaining gift.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe; your gift of water refreshes our spirit. 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 Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

# Station 6

Praise be to you, Lord God, in Brother Fire, through whom you light up the night, we see his strength and beauty.

## *Scripture*

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 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 what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3.10-15

## *Reflection*

Brother Fire, within your dancing flames, I see your beauty and your vigour. Down through the ages, men, women and children have gathered around you for warmth and comfort. In Australia, we witness your incredible power for destruction, yet this is necessary for the regeneration of the bush, the trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses, for the next cycle of life. Help us to treat you with respect.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe, for fire is 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.

Amen.



# Station 7



Praise be you, Lord God, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us.

## *Scripture*

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?  
Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

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?

“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb—when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said,

“Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?”

Job 38. 1,4-7

## *Reflection*

Creator God, this fragile earth, embodied in our island home, is truly both our mother and our sister. As a mother, she is both the source and the sustainer of all life, of all humans, animals, birds, insects, reptiles and plants. Help us to better respect our life-giving earth, which is alive and dynamic and ever singing its praises to you. May we guard mother earth with love and tender care and continue to tread gently upon her.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe; teach me to see your earth not as property but as a bearer of your revelation of love. Deepen my sense of the interdependence of my life and that of our sister, mother earth. Help us all to sense the music of sky and sea, mountains and deserts which is the eternal song of the divine Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Station 8

Praise be to you, Lord God, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

## *Scripture*

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.

Deuteronomy 8.7-10

## *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 trees and their flowers, for the harvest of their fruits, for herbs and roots of the earth that 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 your work of creation. May we listen attentively to the earth's demands and love the land as we love ourselves, as we share its bounty in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.



# Station 9

Praise be to you, Lord God, 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, they shall be crowned.

## *Scripture*

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

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 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.

For he knows, how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103

*Reflection*

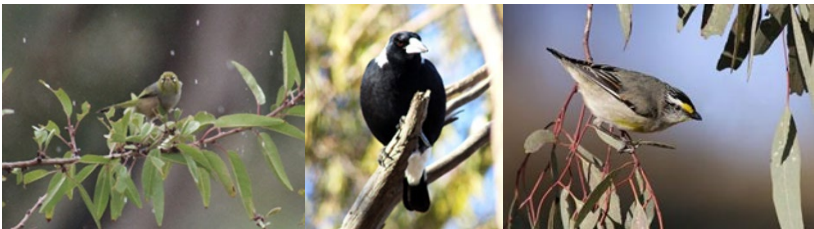
We need the forgiveness of God for all the ways in which we have misused the creation: our selfishness and greed, our exploitation and money grabbing, our use of power to destroy the weak and fragile, our thoughtlessness of the needs of others, and the needs of our earth, which is God's earth. In our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

*Silence*

*Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe, help us in your interweaving love to see and to live in interdependence with all your creatures, to them in their own right, to learn from them all that will help us to live in peace with your creation in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



# Station 10

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister bodily death, from whom no one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

## *Scripture*

O death, how bitter is the thought of you to the 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, a hundred, or a thousand, there are no questions asked in Hades. Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 41.1-4

## *Reflection*

Everything alive in the world dies, including me. What dies is renewed; even after firestorms, floods and cyclones, life returns. Death is feared but death is a purposeful necessity for new life. Without such continual renewal, there is no life. Help me to see the renewal of life as your gift each morning.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe for your renewing of this lovely earth through the universal rhythm of life and death. Help us to trace all forms of life back to you, the creator and source of all things. May we live in a harmony of hope with all that exists in Jesus our Saviour. Amen.



# Station 11

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

## *Scripture*

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.

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.     Psalm 25.4,5,10

## *Reflection*

Loving God, in my better moments I 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 me to trust that path rather than the one paved only with my own interests and concerns. Give me the strength to follow that open road which leads to you beyond all forms of death.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe, you are our companion; help us to find the path of humility, love and joy, in ways that are both rough and smooth, guide us to treasure the earth and each other, so that we may know we are travelling to you with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Station 12

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

## *Scripture*

Now to 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 forever.  
Amen. Jude 24,25

## *Reflection*

Although the transformation of heaven and earth will happen at the end of time, I realise that the universe, this earth and all things visible and invisible, are being drawn with cords of love to find their fulfilment in the Christ of the cosmos. Help us to humbly serve you in that fulfilment, profound and boundless with your love.

## *Silence*

## *Prayer*

Blessed are you, God of the universe, maker of heaven and earth; you draw all of creation to yourself, according to your plan and purpose. Help us to 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.

# Alleluia!

*Good and powerful Lord most High, to you be the praises and the glory. To you alone all blessing and honour belong, and no one is worthy to call upon your name.*

*Praise be to you, Lord God, through Brother Sun you give us light that declares the new-born day. He bears a likeness to you that is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.*

*Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars in heaven. You formed them clear, precious and beautiful.*

*We praise you, Lord, through Brother Wind. Through every kind of weather, you give sustenance to your creatures.*

*Praise be to you, Lord God, through Sister Water who is very precious.*

*Praise be to you, Lord God, in Brother Fire, through whom you light up the night, we see his strength and beauty.*

*Praise be you, Lord God, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us.*

*Praise be to you, Lord God, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.*

*Praise be to you, Lord God, 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, they shall be crowned.*

*Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister bodily death, from whom no one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin.*

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

*Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.*

*based on St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures [or Laudes Creaturarum (Praise of the Creatures)]*