



We are faced not with two separate crisis, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combatting poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Laudato Si #139

Pray to prepare and open yourself:

Holy Earth and Cosmos, I thank you for your wonder and magnificence.
Sacred Nature, I honor you, I come before you to listen.
Holy Suffering Earth, all creatures, my brothers and sisters,
I pray to live with compassion and respect for you.
Open my heart to all this day, Amen.

Spend time with creation

Situate yourself in a comfortable chair,
if possible near a window that
offers a view of the outside world.
Sit mindfully, breathing calmly.
Be attentive to what you see, as if seeing it for the first time.
What catches your heart, eye, ears.....
Watch, listen, smell.....
Just be present to all.....

What is stirring in you, what is opening up in you?

Take some time to be silent and contemplate



Reading:

We tune our ears to the wisdom of Earth.
It is deep prayer, this listening to her cries,
as Spirit's sighs, too deep for words.



Unborn generations call to us from the future:
what did you do when the planet
could no longer bear your foolishness
and begin to break?



The cardinal's whistle,
Once joy's message,
Is now a haunting lament
For the dwindling chorus of songbirds.

The topsoil – living organism and not lowly dirt –
Clears its thinning, chemical-burned voice,
And speaks out for the biotic kingdom
Teeming within this dark body.



The willow drops her loving arms
Around our shoulders and brushes us
with grace,
Whispering that it's not too late.

It falls to us, Wisdom's pupils,
To turn this dirge into a dance of the cosmos.
Let those with ears to hear, rise up.

Adapted from If Darwin Prayed by Bruce Sanguin



Closing prayer for Earth and those who are vulnerable

May the God who dances in creation, who embraces us with human love, who shakes our lives like thunder, bless us and drive us out with power to fill the world with God's justice and mercy.
Amen.

Adapted from Janice Morley, Simple Blessings for Sacred Moments