

Reflections and Prayers for 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY 1970 – 2020



**APRIL 22 2020 THEME FOR THE DAY –
CLIMATE CHANGE**

We must never forget that the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone

Pope Francis

Earth Day: *During these days of isolation as we turn to the world in silence and solitude, it will be impossible not to experience the presence of God*

“Let me seek, then, the gift of silence, and poverty, and solitude, where everything I touch is turned into prayer: where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is all in all.” Thomas Merton

Prayer:

As we are called to see ourselves and each other as earthen vessels that hold God's presence and bring God's gifts to the world, so too, this very world and all that is above, around and within it are earthen vessels - just as easily shattered, just as much in need of our loving attentiveness and support. May our hands align with God's in caressing and shaping these vessels

Pause for silent prayer

We pray:

For trees, plants, crops, and forests.

Let us pray.

For water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds.

Let us pray.

For air, wind, climate and weather.

Let us pray.

For sun, clean energy and prevention of global warming.

Let us pray.

For animals, especially endangered species.

Let us pray.

For all humankind.

Let us pray.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord - Psalm 96, 11 - 13a

For recycling and moderate personal consumption. Let us pray.

For proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Let us pray.

For Earth and unity. Let us pray

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind,
and the cattle of every kind,
and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.
And God saw that it was good. - Genesis 1, 25

Reflection and sharing:

THE FIRST EARTH DAY

*I was there, you know, at your age,
For the first Earth day.
I stood up to my parents
Told them we needed to get rid of our cars
Stood there against the uproarious
laughter
And declared I would never have a car!
I meant it too
I knew better than them
I thought I could do it-
Just walk away from it all-
Be mighty! Be the change!
Simple.....*

*I didn't see it coming
The powerful forces
That would eat away at my determination
Wear down my resolve.....*

*Giving in is a gradual thing
Almost imperceptible
One little change here
One little excuse there
And now 50 years later,
I drive faster than the speed limit
Unable to stay awake in the garden with
Jesus - Like the disciples nodding off
Before the crucifixion*

(Mary Benefiel from Letters to the Earth) Published 2019

Let us pray:

Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.