



To the Catechist:

Earth day is a wonderful opportunity to teach our students about the wonder, awe, majesty and glory of God found in creation. It also reminds all that God chose us to be his stewards of the earth, a hugely blessed privilege.

The prayer service on the reverse side incorporates our Catholic beliefs regarding creation as a gift from God over which God gave humankind dominion. The reading is an adaptation of the Genesis creation story. For older students, you may want to use a Children's Bible for the entire Creation account (Genesis 1: 1-28; 2:1-3.) Other scripture passages that refer to God's creation: Genesis 9:8-17 (Covenant with Noah); or Psalms 8, 65, 104, 146, 147, or 148.

See lyrics below for the traditional American spiritual, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." There is an age appropriate video on Youtube posted at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEkXzi19Crk&ebc=ANyPxKpSS6zc66Mx8MJ9YS5va75nu9Y36nfk2-W435Zn2IN1ZrdsIMF71DYmw9ozftkQaFbVapkUsmwHzfD7UMhAayO6JdK03Q>

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
He's got you and he's got me in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got everybody there in His hands,
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

BELIEVE

In God the Father Almighty



Sign of the Cross: Let us begin our prayer. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction: Today is really special! We bring special attention to the beauty of God's creation, the Earth. New flowers, new plants and new trees are beginning to grow! The animals are beginning to come out, too! God made all these beautiful things for us to enjoy. He makes them new for us every year. And He holds us and all of creation in the palm of His hand.

Opening Song: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Reading: Story of Creation

God created the heavens and all the stars in the sky. He gave shape to the earth and life to the birds, fish and animals on the land. He gave breath to its people and asked them to care for all of his creation.

General Intercessions:

The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

- ◆ Help us to treat your world with kindness. Let us pray...
- ◆ Help us to show our love to all our brothers sisters in the world. Let us pray...
- ◆ Help us to be kind and good to the animals You have given us. Let us pray...
- ◆ Help us to take care of the trees, plants and other things in Your world carefully, let us pray...

Let us end today by praying the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning

that we are pardoned; it is in dying

that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

