

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 opening and closing songs can be sung or use age appropriate videos which are posted on Youtube at:

- ◆ *Canticle of the Sun*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGMIjwf0SVw>
- ◆ *Let There Be Peace on Earth*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icx7cDBuyNc>  
—this video was taped at an Interreligious prayer service during Pope Francis’s trip to the US/ New York City in September, 2015.

The prayer service uses an adaptation of the Genesis creation story for the Scripture passage.

# BELIEVE

In God the Father Almighty



## Opening Song: *Canticle of the Sun*

### OPENING PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us begin our prayer service by signing ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We gather today, to celebrate the goodness found in God's creation. Our God lovingly formed our planet, the Earth, and all that live within it. He declared his creation good and asked us to take care of it and each other. Sometimes we forget these responsibilities, Today, let us reflect upon our call as stewards of the earth as we listen to the marvelous scripture story of God's creation.

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Reader:** A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. And God saw that it was good. God separated the light from the darkness and called the light "Day" and the dark "Night".

**Reader:** On the second day, God created a dome in the middle of the waters. God said, "Let the dome be separated from the waters." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. He called the dome "Sky".

**Reader:** On the third day, God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered into one place and let the dry land appear." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. He called the dry land "Earth" and the waters "Seas and Oceans."

**Reader:** On the fourth day, God said. "Let there be lights in the sky in the day and in the night." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. He called the light in the day "Sun" and the lights in the night "Stars."

**Reader:** the fifth day, God said, "Let there be living things and living creatures in the waters and in the skies." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. He named the living things and creatures in the waters and the creatures in the skies.

**Reader:** On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be living things and living creatures on the surface of the earth." And it was so. God saw that it was good. He named the creatures of the earth, and all other living things. Then God said, "Let there be human beings made in my image. Let these humans rule over all the other animals and living creatures on earth. Let them use plants and seedlings for food and to make shelter and tools. Let them make the land and seas of earth as their home." And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

**Reader:** He breathed life into the humans and blessed them, making male and female. He called the humans "Man" and "Woman." Then God looked at all he had made. The day and the night, the sky, the land and the seas, the sun and stars, the living creatures in the oceans, the skies and the earth, and the humans in God's own image. And God saw that it was very good. The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.



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## PLEDGE TO TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH, OUR COMMON HOME

**Reader:** God has made us in His image and likeness. He has given humankind dominion over all of His creature. Let us now make a pledge to God, the Almighty, that we will be true stewards of His creation.

**All:**

We pledge to use the world's resources thoughtfully and prudently.

We pledge to take care of His creatures, great and small, who inhabit this planet with us.

We pledge to not be wasteful of water, food, and recycle for the good of the earth.

We pledge to not pollute lakes, rivers and oceans.

We pledge to safeguard your earth for future generations to enjoy.

And we make these pledges in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer.

Amen.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

**Leader:** 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

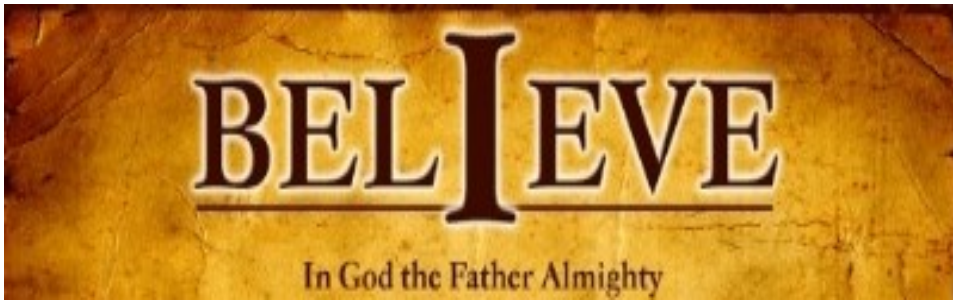
that we are pardoned; it is in dying

that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.



**Closing Song:** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*



**Opening Song: Canticle of the Sun**

Refrain

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
And all creation is shouting for joy!  
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the  
field, And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day, he carries the light of the Lord in his rays; the moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne! R.

Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, the seas' mighty storms, the gentlest breeze; they blow where they will, they blow where they please to please the Lord! R.

Praise for the rain that waters our fields, and blesses our crops so all the earth yields; from death unto life her mystery revealed springs forth in joy! R.

Praise for the fire who gives us his light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night; he dances with with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of you! R.

**Closing Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father  
Brothers all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
With peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me.