



International Solidarity Reflection

School Sisters of Notre Dame

Shalom

Season of Creation & Peace Prayer Service September 2022

Introduction

For the introduction, excerpts from the reflections on the Season of Creation and the World Day of Peace in the attachment could be used. Note also the suggestions for the prayer setting.

Song: *Here I am Lord* (Daniel Schutte) or another song, which is well known in your area.

Psalmody (Psalm 19)

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

Listen to creation tell of God, listen to God's Word in scripture

Reading (Exodus 3, 1-10)

After a short silence, participants are invited to share with their neighbor what they have heard, especially the questions: What am I/are we sent to do? Who are - figuratively speaking - the Israelites today to whom I am/we are sent?

Intercessory Prayer

Each participant is invited to have a candle lit and hold it in his/her hand during the petitions. One participant lights her/his candle on the candle lit at the thorn bush and then she/he lights the candle of the person next to her/him and so on. In this way the light passes from person to person.

We pray the following petitions and then each one is invited to pick a flame hanging on the *thorn bush* and read the concern on it.

- Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on earth. We beseech You to guide all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace.
God of peace, hear us and help us.
- Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war.
God of peace, hear us and help us.
- Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred.
God of peace, hear us and help us.
- Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war.
God of peace, hear us and help us
- Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom.
God of peace, hear us and help us.
- Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace to overcome ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression.
God of peace, hear us and help us.
- *(Add the concerns written on the flames from the thorn bush)*

Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen

Renewal of the SSND *Laudato Si'* [Public Commitment](#). With faith and hope we renew our commitment to become a *Laudato Si'* Congregation and do it together.

Concluding Prayer

We pray together the Our Father, the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, today in a version influenced by Maori theologians.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.
*(Adapted - According to the New Zealand prayer book | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa.
 This version of the Lord's Prayer was influenced by Maori theologians).*

Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation,
 Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
 Who transforms chaos to order,
 Lead us in the transformation of our lives and the Church,
 To listen to the voice of all creatures,
 That reflect God's glory in creation. *(Following the CTBI Eco-Congregation Program).*

*Prepared by the Shalom Contacts from the European Shalom Branch for the SSND Shalom Network.
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