



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

### Building a Culture of Peace

Building a culture of peace requires an “ecological conversion,” Pope Francis says. In his 2020 World Day of Peace Message, he says, “Faced with the consequences of our hostility towards others, our lack of respect for our common home or our abusive exploitation of natural resources – seen only as a source of immediate profit, regardless of local communities, the common good and nature itself – we are in need of an ecological conversion.”

This type of conversion entails personal change of habits, but also working toward structural change, so that our systems allow us to care for the earth more easily and affordably. Building a culture of peace through care for the earth requires both personal and social action. (Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns)

#### In this third week of Advent, let us pray.

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you! Amen.

#### Pope Francis, Christian Prayer in Union with Creation