



# Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

## A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24

The theme of the Season of Creation 2023 (September 1- October 4) is **Let Justice and Peace Flow: A Mighty River**. We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities in this greater movement for justice, like tributaries come together to form a mighty river. During the Season of Creation a symbolic river will be placed at the entrance of Holy Family Chapel with a prayer intention for each day. Near the river there will be a bowl of shells. You are invited to take one and to keep it in a place where you will see it frequently to remind you that you are joining your own efforts with millions of people around the world – forming a groundswell of justice and peace.

### Week 1 September 1-2

#### PRAY...

1 That the Season of Creation will be a time for deepening awareness that great change can come from each of us joining our small efforts together.

2 In gratitude, by name, for the people we have known who were environmental activists.

**LEARN:** Visit the Season of Creation website to learn how others are celebrating and to get ideas for your own celebration.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

**ACT:** Make a personal plan about how you want to celebrate the Season of Creation. Choose some specific actions that will help you connect with others in forming a mighty river of justice and peace.

## **WEEK 2 September 3-9**

### **PRAY...**

3 For young people who are leaders in the environmental movements.

4 For the Vincentian Family made up of more than 2 million people around the world. Give thanks that we form part of this mighty Vincentian river.

5 In gratitude when you drink a glass of water; water molecules that have cycled through millions of other living beings. Feel a sense of communion with them.

6 When you are outside, pause to consider that in a cubic foot of soil under your feet there are over 10,000 species of bacteria, 100 species of protozoa, 10,000 nematodes, hundreds of species of algae, and over 5000 individual insects. Rejoice in the diversity of life!

7 For marine life endangered by plastic waste.

8 For pelicans who inspired our Congregation symbol.

9 For fisherfolk whose livelihood is threatened by the climate crisis.

**LEARN:** Watch some of these short videos on biodiversity loss

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/22/world/wildlife-crisis-biodiversity-scnc-climate-intl/index.html>

**ACT:** Read this article on *Six Ways to Preserve Biodiversity* and put

them into practice. <https://sustainability.yale.edu/blog/6-ways-preserve-biodiversity>

## **Week 3 September 10-16**

### **PRAY...**

10 For politicians that they will legislate in ways that benefit all Earth's creatures.

11 When you pass a garden, listen for the sounds of bees and other pollinator insects. Pray in gratitude for their role in feeding you.

12 For the people who visit Maris Stella, Harvey Cedars. May the beauty of bay, ocean and sky inspire them to work for the health of land and water.

13 For a healing from our cultural addiction to fossil fuels.

14 For all the people and animals who have lost home and habitat this year due to fires.

15 On this feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, pray in grief with Mary over loss of life due to the climate crisis.

16 For scientists who are developing non-petroleum based energy sources.

**LEARN:** Watch this video that reminds us that the Season of Creation is celebrated by many Christian denominations and communities of faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgAbavjkTik>

**ACT:** Talk to a friend or coworker of another faith tradition about what care of Creation means to you and ask them what it means to them.

#### **Week 4 September 17-23**

##### **PRAY...**

17 Conscious of our General Assembly decision “to reduce our carbon footprint with a focus on our food print,” plan a number of meatless meals this week.

18 For endangered marine species.

19 For the health of wetlands, swamps, bogs, and marshes.

20 For the bishops of the United States that they will implement Laudato Si’ and lead US Catholics in becoming a mighty river of justice and peace.

21 International Peace Day – The military is a major polluter. Pray for disarmament.

22 For our waterways that cannot flow freely because they are clogged by human waste.

23 For organic farmers and gardeners.

**LEARN:** Use this online test to calculate your footprint

<https://foodprint.org/quiz/>

**ACT:** Based on what you have learned from calculating your footprint, make three choices that will enable you to eat more sustainably and to work toward food justice.

#### **Week 5 September 24-30**

##### **PRAY...**

24 For all students in Sister of Charity sponsored and related schools, that they may become activists for Earth justice.

25 For the Native Peoples who were the first inhabitants of the lands where we live.

26 When you read or watch the news, be alert for stories of people who are becoming a mighty river of peace and justice.

27 In thanks for your favorite vegetable.

28 For cooks whose creativity delights our palates.

29 For all Congregations in the Charity Federation, that we will join the mighty river of justice and peace.

30 For an animal companion whose life has enriched yours.

**LEARN:** Learn about the movement to protect the rights of rivers.

<https://www.rightsofrivers.org/>

**ACT:** Sign the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers

<https://www.rightsofrivers.org/#sign>

## **Week 6 October 1-4**

### **PRAY...**

1 Listen to the voice of St. Therese of Lisieux who reminds us that, “an integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with a logic of violence, exploitation, and selfishness,” (LS, 230).

2 Notice the signs of autumn around you and pray for the autumn grace to let go and enter the darkness.

3 Words of Sr. Donna Markham, OP at the 2023 LCWR Assembly: “For me, I am no longer afraid of what may become of me in speaking truth or doing what I know to be right. We will allow absolutely nothing to prevent us from reaching out in compassion. This is the gift and the hope I believe we women religious leaders offer to our broken, angry world today.” How will your speech and action plunge you into the mighty river of justice and peace?

4 Listen to the voice of Francis of Assisi who, “reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us, (LS, 1).

**LEARN:** Listen to the song “We Shall Be Known By the Company We Keep.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKhjaN72dRQ&t=9s>

**ACT:** What is one thing I can do to make justice and peace flow more freely through and from the Company of Charity?