

Prayers for the Season of Creation

BLESSING OF SISTER WATER

May I be carried by the flow of
the great river of life.
May I discover a hidden spring
within, gushing forth.
May I be carried to the shores of
the sacred and renewed. Amen.
(Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.102)

BLESSING OF BROTHER FIRE

Spirit of Fire, you revealed yourself
through the burning bush and the fiery
courage of Pentecost.
Fiery Spirit, source of all creative power,
kindle your holy spark within me.
Breathe into me your sacred passion.
Fill me with your flame until I have
become fire, offering warmth and
light to the world.
Spirit of refining fire, help me to
release what no longer serves me, to
make room for your light to fill me.
Blessings of fire be upon me.
May the light of God illuminate me
and may the flame of love burn
brightly in me.
May I discover each day anew my
own hidden fire and enter it fully.
Amen. (Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.73)

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

God of Air, Water, Earth and Sky,
challenge us to be light for
the world in which we live.
May we be constantly attentive to:
the cry of the Earth,
the call for climate justice,
the plight of those who suffer drought,
floods and other extreme weather
events, the loss of green spaces and
natural habitats.
Help us to walk lightly on our Earth:
to plant, to preserve, to recycle,
to nurture.
May we respond each day to the
Franciscan call to live simply
and humbly. Amen.
(Thompson 2021)

ON NATURE AS SACRAMENT

We have a tremendous
treasure in nature.
In every wind that blows,
in every night and day of the year,
in every sign of the sky,
in every blossoming and every
withering of the Earth,
there is a real coming of God to us,
if we will simply use our starved
imagination to realise it.
Lord, help us to see
nature as sacrament. (Chambers cited
in Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.3)

IN PRAISE OF THE NATURAL WORLD 1

Every tree is a blessing.
Every drop of water a gift.
Each river's flow carries joy,
and every flower paints
beauty across our paths.
Let us never cease to praise and
give thanks for our natural world.
Amen. (Thompson 2024)

IN PRAISE OF THE NATURAL WORLD 2

Mountain rock is protected
and at one with the earth, solid,
unswerving and eternally strong.
May we, like St Francis, cling to those
rocks in our life that keep us grounded.
May we, in turn, be rocks for others –
family, friends and colleagues.
May we always take comfort
in natural places. Amen. (Thompson 2024)

IN PRAISE OF THE NATURAL WORLD 3

Let us give thanks for our rivers and
mountains, our trees and our oceans,
our animals and birds.
Like St Francis, may we see the love
of our God in the beauty of our Earth
and its creatures.
Help us, Lord, to work tirelessly
for eco-justice, seeking always to
advocate for, support and protect
our natural world.
Help us to encourage others to walk
lightly with us on our Earth.
Amen. (Thompson. 2024)

IN PRAISE OF THE NATURAL WORLD 4

Lord, there are places where we feel
safe, nurtured and inspired.
Help us to emulate St Francis in seeing
the natural world as our family.
May we treasure times of tranquillity
and peace.
We pray for wildlife sanctuaries,
national parks and places of wild
beauty, that they may be protected
for future generations.
Amen. (Thompson 2024)

FROM HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

God's soul is the wind rustling
plants and leaves, the dew dancing
on the grass, the rainy breezes
make everything grow.
Just like this, the kindness of a
person flows, touching those
dragging burdens of longing.
We should be a breeze helping the
homeless, dew comforting those
who are depressed, the cool,
misty air refreshing the exhausted,
and with God's teaching, we have to
feed the hungry.
This is how we share God's soul.
(in Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.41)

FROM ST PATRICK

I arise today,
through the strength of heaven.
Light of the sun, splendour of fire,
speed of lightning, swiftness
of the wind, depth of the sea,
stability of earth.
firmness of the rock.
God be praised.
Amen. (in Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.3)

FROM THOMAS MERTON

Let me seek, then, the gift of silence
and poverty, and solitude,
Where everything I touch
is turned into prayer:
Where the sky is my prayer,
the birds are my prayer,
the wind in the trees is my prayer,
for God is in all. Amen.
(in Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.16)

FROM MEISTER ECKHART

Apprehend God in all things,
for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God
and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spend enough time with the
tiniest creature, even a caterpillar,
I would never have to prepare
a sermon.
So full of God is every creature.
(in Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.130)

A CELTIC PRAYER

**Deep peace of the running wave
to you,** of water flowing, rising
and falling, sometimes advancing,
sometimes receding...
May the stream of your life
flow unimpeded.
Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
which fans your face on a sultry day,
the air which you breathe, deeply,
rhythmically, which imparts to you
energy, consciousness, life.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
who herself unmoving, harbours the
movements, and facilitates the life of
ten thousand creatures, while resting
contented, stable, tranquil.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
which stay invisible till darkness falls,
and disclose their pure and shining
presence beaming down in compassion
on our turning world.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
(Valders-Paintner, 2010, p.12)