

## **PRAYER OF PASTORAL CARE April 18, 2021**

On this Earth Day Sunday, we join Pope Francis in a Prayer for Our Earth. “All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

“O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

“Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

“We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.” \*

Healer of every ill we pray for all in need, for refugees of war and violence, and all who are displaced by storms. We pray for rescue workers and medical teams including all on the front lines against COVID 19.

Uphold all whose spirits and bones are weary, and those who show us the power of community to give hope to the frightened.

We lift before you those on this church’s immediate needs prayer list. ...

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend into your care all for whom we pray, and our stewardship of the earth our mother.

We offer this and the unspoken prayers of each of our hearts in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

*\* Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato Si’ encyclical, and it is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

As Jesus gave himself fully for us and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace, so let us now bring wholeness and healing to others through our tithes and offerings. Let us pray.

Lord God, we offer to you but a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus’ love. Our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit’s wisdom.

Work your grace through our gifts that others may have joy in Jesus’ name. Amen.