

From the SEASON OF CREATION resource.



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Summary of talking points to reflect on this year's theme and symbol

The different dimensions of hope

- *Christian hope is not superficial—it's concrete. Our hope is rooted in God's character, promises, and actions.*
- *Needs for metanoia, ecological conversion, and reconciliation with the Earth. The Spirit is guiding our conversion, leading us into the comprehension of being a cosmic family.*
- *Repairs the broken relationship between humans and Earth, other creatures, and God.*
- *To change the system, we must change our mindsets.*
- *listen to voices that cry out and groan, communities losing land and livelihoods, species and ecosystems lost, victims of fossil fuel industries.*
- *Active hope seen in care of creation, hearing the voice of the poor, hearing the cries of the Earth.*
- *Hope inspires us to act; we can act, see what we hope for, are willing to act.*
- *Collective action creates grounding hope for suffering from climate anxiety. Christian hope fuels transformative action.*
- *Transformation takes time and patience.*
- *Hope is faith in what we do not see, knowing tomorrow will be better because Christ is risen.*
- *Active hope is non-monetary, can change the world.*

Action as a sign of the firstfruits of hope

- *You don't see hope, hope is like a seed, needs patience to nurture it and keep planting.*
- *Firstfruits of hope seen when in collectivity, nurturing peaceful coexistence, fidelity, honesty, and transparency among the whole cosmos.*
- *The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) is a global initiative that complements the Paris Agreement in addressing the still-growing supply of fossil fuels. A call for a transformation.*

- *Action as the firstfruits of hope like many things: advocacy campaigns, sustainability initiatives, educational formations upskill communities in awareness care for Creation is central to faith.*
- *The firstfruits of hope are seen when we work collectively, listen to the voices of poor, global neighbors impacted by climate change, prophetic voices of indigenous people, creatures going extinct, still striving to live, young people and children, when we learn from slow cycles of life of different species, ecosystems, and work together with Creation and all creatures for a better future.*

How we are called to hope and act

- *To hope and act together with Creation we must truly listen to groaning, push for more action, we're more aware than ever of the problems.*
 - *Creation is part of God's revelation, we must learn from & with Creation for a better future.*
 - *Testimony of indigenous Christians and spiritualities are not listened to. Christian churches find resistance to speaking about Earth or Creation as a being. for indigenous and original peoples this is an intrinsic cosmic view.*
 - *fossil fuel industries create greenwashing campaigns for clean energy. They are expanding their energy businesses for profit instead of phasing out of fossil fuels.*
 - *Acknowledge the damages caused by selfish decisions that disregard cries of the most marginalized, refugees, edisplaced by climate change, mining, and ecological devastation.*
 - *As resources and access diminish there's more war, inevitable result is more violence. No peace without an equitable sharing of resources.*
 - *The African wisdom of Ubuntu teaches sense of self is shaped by relationships with others. It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a cosmic collective family to care for Creation. I am because we are, the same goes with Creation. We are nature, nature is us, we are God's hands for global and cosmic justice.*
- **POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE FOR 1 SEPTEMBER, DAY OF PRAYER:** *To hope and act with creation means to live an incarnational faith, that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled "flesh" of others, sharing in the expectation of bodily resurrection believers are predestined to in Christ the Lord. Our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness.*