

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

1 September – 4 October 2025.



EXTRACTS FROM THE SOC CELEBRATION GUIDE, prepared by MARFAM/Laudato Si SA Chapter

The Season of Creation ecumenical commemoration began in 1989 by the Eastern Orthodox Church with the Catholic Church by Pope Francis participating since 2019. The Annual theme and resource guide are prepared by an ecumenical steering committee.

The Guide contains: An invitation from committee members from various churches, explanations of theme and symbol, a Prayer for the Season, an Ecumenical Prayer Service and suggestions for action and celebrations. All resources are free to download and adapt. [.https://seasonofcreation.org](https://seasonofcreation.org). www.laudatosimovement.org Also Laudato Si Action Platform, MARFAM, SACBC and other local resources.

2025 theme: inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18 *“For the palace is forsaken, the city deserted, the hill and the watchtower will become dens, the joy of wild asses and flocks. Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field. Justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness in the fruitful field. The effect will be peace, quietness and trust. (Adapted)*

REFLECTION ON THE THEME: War on Creation. *“The palace will be forsaken.....”* The prophet portrays creation, desolate, devoid of peace due to injustice, the broken relationship between God and humankind as responsible for the destruction through sin. Animals move in and claim back the earth.

Peace is more than absence of war. *Shalom:* from absence of conflict to full relationship restoration with God, ourselves, the human family and all Creation.

Human activities have harmed Creation historically. Today wars affect people and livelihoods, plus a war against Creation, from local to global, unsustainable lifestyles, excessive consumption, lasting pollution and a throwaway culture. Economic consumption with exploitative models and theories, health crises, deforestation and mining worsen the harm.

St Francis of Assisi asks, “How can Mother Earth nurture us if we fail to contemplate, learn from and love her, ignoring our interconnectedness.

Our Hope: Peace in Creation with Justice restored.

Hope is active, with prayer, action, reconciling with God & Creation through repentance and solidarity. Righteousness leads to peace and restores the land’s fertility.

Creation is God’s sacred gift, entrusted to our care to nurture and protect, in partnership with others and for future generations. Our interconnectedness is essential but it is fragile. *Laudato Si 160.*

Churches engage in efforts around climate, agriculture, and biodiversity. Efforts are grounded in theology with a prophetic call for repentance and justice towards all life.

Season of Creation 2025 - A Kairos Moment: 1700 Years of the Nicene Creed. *“We believe in one God, Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in Jesus Christ, through him all things were made. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.”* The year 2025 marks this Christian anniversary, to confess their faith and witness in the context of a troubled, unequal and divided world with the Creed as a bond of peace and communion in order to strengthen faith.

A Call to Action. “The Effect of Justice is Peace.” *Reflecting on the Isaiah passage:*

- As co-workers with the Creator, **we must all embody peace with all of Creation.** It cannot be for only a few.
- God declared all Creation is good. Despite damage due to sin, biodiversity still reflects generosity and abundance. **From Christ’s incarnation we learn this.**
- Reflect on the *“deserted populous city.”* **Pray and respond to the cries** of communities losing land and livelihoods due to war, climate change, unsustainable practices and debt.
- The Spirit guides us to understanding and ecological conversion. The outcome must be truly **transformative** – not mere restoration of previous conditions.
- **Proactive steps** should respond to Jesus’ teaching of repentance and restorative justice.
- Righteousness leads to peace. Challenges are large but hope fuels action. **Through prayer, discernment and commitment** we create a foundation for change.
- God’s peace emerges from **work.** Transformation takes patience, understanding and trust.

Action: Plan for and hold special moments, activities and advocacy

- Use special commemorations: SOC launch and closing, Heritage Day. St Francis, guardian angels + relevant
- Ecumenical prayer service, with symbols and images of both, beauty and destruction. Adapt provided text to include confession of guilt, forgiveness, praise, thanks.
- Celebrate Votive Creation Mass approved by Pope Leo.
- Prayer hike, outdoor prayer moments, retreats.
- Nature walk, examining trees, plants, insects etc, current realities and needs.
- Conduct advocacy on local issues, sustainability projects, cleaning, fossil fuel, climate change, biodiversity.
- Education shows care for Creation is central to faith. Provide material for parish catechesis, schools & homes.
- Collaborate for peace in diversity and unity, through projects: tree planting, river & general cleaning, water.
- Together with poor people focus on local needs.
- Explore food gardens and food security possibilities with indigenous plants.
- Brainstorm together
- Get full SOC guide at <https://seasonofcreation.org>
- MARFAM booklets and resources info@marfam.org.za www.marfam.org.za *Becoming Eco-Friendly Families. Families Caring for God’s Creation.*