



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Office of the Canon Missioner

Ivan Harewood Center

Diocese of Barbados, 2025

Overview of the Season for 2025

THEME: *PEACE WITH CREATION*

The 2025 Symbol depicting the ‘Garden of Peace’ is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18.

**The fortress will be abandoned,
the noisy city deserted;
citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever,
the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks,
¹⁵ till the Spirit is poured on us from on high,
and the desert becomes a fertile field,
and the fertile field seems like a forest.
¹⁶ The Lord’s justice will dwell in the desert,
his righteousness live in the fertile field.
¹⁷ The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;
its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

¹⁸ My people will live in peaceful dwelling places,
in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest.**

The cover design is the logo for this year’s observance. It depicts a dove with an olive branch in its beak flying over a tree which exists in contrasting conditions. The left side of the tree is rooted in an arid region which results in the tree being dried and deprived of nutrients. The right side of the tree is rooted in fertile conditions which results in a healthy and lush appearance.

The arid conditions in this scene are the result of humanity’s impact on the creation, while the verdant conditions reflect the hope that abounds if humanity ceases its destructive assault on the creation. The dove is flying from the arid region to the flourishing region with the olive branch as a reminder of the restoration of the earth after the destruction of the creation in Genesis’ account of Noah and the Ark.

The scene ties in with Isaiah’s vision of the desolation and destruction of the creation due to humanity’s activity. The call to “Peace with Creation” is one for reconciliation and repentance which is best understood in the Greek word *metanoia* which is best translated “a change of mind or direction”.

The Season of Creation has its genesis in 1989 through a proposal by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I, also known as the ‘Green Patriarch’, of the Orthodox Church that September 1st be designated as a Day of Prayer for Creation. Over the years this came to be accepted by the Worldwide Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion and others, and has developed into not simply a day of prayer but a season spanning from September 1st (Creation Day) to October 4th (The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi-The patron saint of ecology). Each year the season carries a theme which calls the faithful to focus on some aspect of the creation. Over time through the collaboration of the ecumenical partners mentioned above, a lectionary has also been developed for the season along the lines of the triennial cycle around which the entire lectionary is structured. Though this has not been officially adopted by all the ecumenical partners, it is deemed as one of several forms that may be utilised during the season.

In the Diocese of Barbados, we have adopted the triennial lectionary for the season to provide a more intentioned focus for each Sunday, along the lines of the general theme designated for the year. This year being Lectionary Year C of our cycle, the readings for the season of creation are those prepared for year 3.

Readings and Themes for Sundays in the Season of Creation 2025

Year 3. Series C: The Wisdom Series (year of Luke)

This series includes those texts where Wisdom is the designing force behind creation and the impulse that enables the parts of creation to fulfil their roles.

September 7 - Ocean Sunday

Job 38:1-18

Psalms 104:1-9, 24-26

Ephesians 1:3-10

Luke 5:1-11

September 14 - Fauna and Flora Sunday / The Feast of the Holy Cross

Job 39:1-8, 26-30

Isaiah 45: 21-25

Psalms 104:14-23

Psalms 98 or 98:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-23

Philippians 2:5-11 or Galatians 6: 14-18

Luke 12:22-31

John 12: 31-36a

September 21 - Storm Sunday

Job 28:20-27

Psalms 29

1 Corinthians 1:21-31

Luke 8:22-25

September 28 - Cosmos Sunday

Proverbs 8:22-31

Psalms 148

Colossians 1:15-20

John 6:41-51

October 4 – The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Blessing of Animals/pets)

Galatians 6:14-18

Psalms 148:7-14

Matthew 11: 25-30

- It is recommended that September 14 be observed as Holy Cross Day.

Prayer for the Season of Creation 2025

PEACE WITH CREATION

Creator of all,

we praise you for the gift of life

and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.

We confess how estranged we have become—

from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves.

We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses

have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth.

Fertile fields have become barren,

forests lie desolate,

oceans and rivers are polluted.

Thriving communities have become places of suffering,

and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ,

who spoke “Shalom” to frightened hearts,

stir us to compassionate action.

Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,

and for the full restoration of broken relationships—

with you, with the ecumenical community,

with the human family,
and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace,
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity
with the woundedness of others,
of creation, and of the world.
Through your resurrection,
make us people of hope—
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares
and tears transformed into joy.
May we come together as one family,
to labor for your peace—
a shalom where all your people
may dwell in safety,
and rest in quiet places.
Amen.

Significant Days within the Season

September 1 – Creation Day (Day of Prayer for Creation)

September 14 – The Feast of the Holy Cross

September 21 – The Feast of St. Matthew

September 22 – Arbor Day

-Anniversary of Hurricane Janet

- The Autumnal Equinox (The start of Autumn)

September 29 – The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

October 4 – The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

List of Hymns which may be used

366, 384, 564, 246, 408, 378, 223, 413, 456, 764 A&M, 641, 707, 711, 545, 661, 360, 528, 512,

Any hymns for St. Michael and All Angels and Holy Cross.

-This is My Father's World

-When Upon Life's Billows (Count Your Blessings)

Contemporary Songs for reflection

-Oceans (by Hill Song)

- How Great is Our God (by Chris Tomlin)

- Still (by Hill Song)

- God of Wonders Beyond our Galaxy (by Chris Tomlin)

- I Love the Mountains *Boom-de-a-da* (Kids Songs)

Suggested Activities for Parishes

- Decorate an area of the church depicting either the general theme of the season or incorporating the focus for one of the Sundays.
- Plant a garden or a tree on the church's property.
- Encourage members to have their pets blessed on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
- ***Take pictures of the above activities for the season of the Creation page on the Diocesan website***

Challenges for Individuals

- Sign up and enter one or more of the following diocesan competitions:
 - i) Poster Competition for the Season of Creation
 - ii) Hymn Competition for the Season of Creation
 - iii) Poetry Competition for the Season of Creation
 - iv) Essay Competition for the Season of Creation

Extended Version of 'This is my Father's World'

This is my Father's world,

And to my listening ears

All nature sings, and round me rings

The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong
Seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

This is my Father's world,
Dreaming, I see His face.
I ope my eyes, and in glad surprise
Cry, The Lord is in this place.
This is my Father's world,
From the shining courts above,

The Beloved One, His Only Son,
Came—a pledge of deathless love.

This is my Father's world,
Should my heart be ever sad?
The lord is King—let the heavens ring.
God reigns—let the earth be glad.
This is my Father's world.
Now closer to Heaven bound,
For dear to God is the earth Christ trod.
No place but is holy ground.

This is my Father's world.
I walk a desert lone.
In a bush ablaze to my wondering gaze
God makes His glory known.
This is my Father's world,
a wanderer I may roam
Whate'er my lot, it matters not,
My heart is still at home.

Modified version of 'I Love the Mountains' for Sunday School

I love the mountains
I love the rolling hills
I love the flowers
I love the daffodils

I love the God above

Who made this world with love.

Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da-Boom (x2)

I love the oceans

I love the open sea

I love the forests

I love the bumble bees

I love the God above

Who made this world with love.

Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da-Boom (x2)

I love the pastures

I love the butterflies

I love the wind blow

I love the river flow

I love the God above

Who made this world with love.

Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da-Boom (x2)

I love the sunshine

I love the summer breeze

I love the starlight

And moonlight on the sea

I love the God above

Who made this world with love.

Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da, Boom-De-A-Da-Boom (x2)