



What is the Season of Creation? Why and How to Celebrate it?

By Terry DeLisio, All Saints parishioner, member of the All Saints Green Team, and member of Eco DioChicago, a diocesan-level committee that focuses on helping parishes further The Episcopal Church's mission to care for creation.

THE SEASON OF CREATION is a global ecumenical expression of the recognition that it is the biblical, theological, spiritual, and missional calling of the Christian churches to respond to the ecological challenges facing the planet and its inhabitants. The season is a time set aside for focusing on and giving thanks and praise to God the Creator for the gift of creation. It is a time for liturgical celebration, reflection, conversion, and creation-caring action.

LIVING WATER

As you have heard, the theme for the global observation of the Season of Creation in 2026 is "Living Water." Here are some ways we will be taking a "deep dive" into this season as a community, as well as some suggestions for individuals and families.

During the month of September we will be singing and praying together in our Sunday and Wednesday Eucharists with a particular emphasis on giving thanks to God as Creator. At the observance of the Feast of St. Francis we will bless the gift of our beloved pets.

You will notice that our new baptismal font has been moved to the front of the church! All are invited to touch the symbol of the life, death, and resurrection of the One who is "living water" — Jesus Christ — as you come into the church and as you go out into the world. Let it be a reminder of who we are and whose we are as humans called to be faithful creation caretakers of our planet and other creaturely kin.

RESOURCES AND HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR AREA

Here are some suggestions if you wish to explore books and other resources to help you take a deeper dive into Creator/Creation-focused contemplation as individuals, families, or small groups.

If you are interested in taking action by participating in beach and water clean-ups happening this month in our area, [click here](#) for a handout listing opportunities. [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#) offers a variety of other volunteer opportunities from beach clean-ups to political action.

If this is too much, think of just one little thing you can do each day to help make our planet a more beautiful, clean, and healthy place.

An abundance of additional liturgical, spiritual, advocacy, and action resources for observing the Season of Creation can also be found on the web sites of the [Anglican Communion](#) and the [World Council of Churches](#).

SEASON OF CREATION READING, CONTEMPLATION, AND PRAYER RESOURCES

Christine Valters Paintner, *[Water, Wind, Earth, and Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements](#)*, a contemplative book that explores these elements through reflection, poetry, and practices. Has a very good chapter on living water.

Lynn Cherry, *[A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History](#)*, a colorful children's picture book, tells the story of the destruction, restoration and renewal of the Nashua River.

Rachel Carson, *[The Sense of Wonder](#)* with beautiful photographs by Nick Kelsh, a classic, is for anyone interested in encouraging the gift of wonder in Creation in their child, grandchild, or grandniece/nephew.

The booklet *[Season of Creation, a Perennial Guide \(2025\)](#)*, offers a short primer on the theological basis for the season, a whole section on practicing creator/creation focused Morning, Noon, and Evening prayer, and a selection of short readings and quotes for reflection.

If you are on the go, the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and Province One EcoRegion is offering *[Praying with Creation: Daily Devotions for the Season of Creation](#)*. It includes a fun fact about creation along with a brief reflection on it and a prayer. [Sign up here](#) to have it delivered to your email every morning.

SOME HISTORY

Creation Sunday was first introduced in 1989 by Metropolitan Kalistos Ware, a high-ranking Bishop of the Eastern Orthodox Church. It was celebrated as a feast of thanksgiving and praise to God the Creator on the 1st of September or the first Sunday of this month. Several Christian denominations began celebrating this feast and, in 2008, it was officially adopted and expanded by the World Council of Churches to a month-long season ending with the Feast of St. Francis on October 4th. The Anglican Communion formally adopted the global celebration of the Season of Creation in 2012.

Some dioceses and parishes in The Episcopal Church have been celebrating the Season of Creation for many years. At our 80th General Convention (2024), the Episcopal Church formally and officially encouraged the observation of this season. Liturgical resources have been authorized for use in the Diocese of Chicago. All Saints observed the season for the first time in 2025.

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