

w/c 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

This week's prayers are prepared by Bellerive FCJ & Upton Hall FCJ

## Faith like a mustard seed (Sunday Gospel Mark 4:26-34)

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.' Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

For reflection:

In this passage, Jesus tells two stories about something called "the Kingdom of God". What do you think this "Kingdom of God" is?

The two stories both talk about the astonishing process of growth. What is the point that these two stories make, do you think?

Ask yourself, "Is Jesus challenging me to do something here? What does he want me to do? Am I willing to do it?"



# Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

In October 2019, the FCJ Sisters held their general chapter. From this meeting a document was produced for all FCJ's called 'Widening the circle of love' . One chapter is called Care for our Common Home and focuses on the FCJ response to the climate emergency. In companionship with the FCJ Sisters, we are all working together. The document says:

*We want to help each other to reflect constantly on how our lifestyle decisions, small or large, affect the earth and the poorest peoples of the Earth.*



Pause for thought:  
What daily decisions do  
you make that affect  
the environment?

Sr Ciony FCJ & Companions in Mission in the Philippines

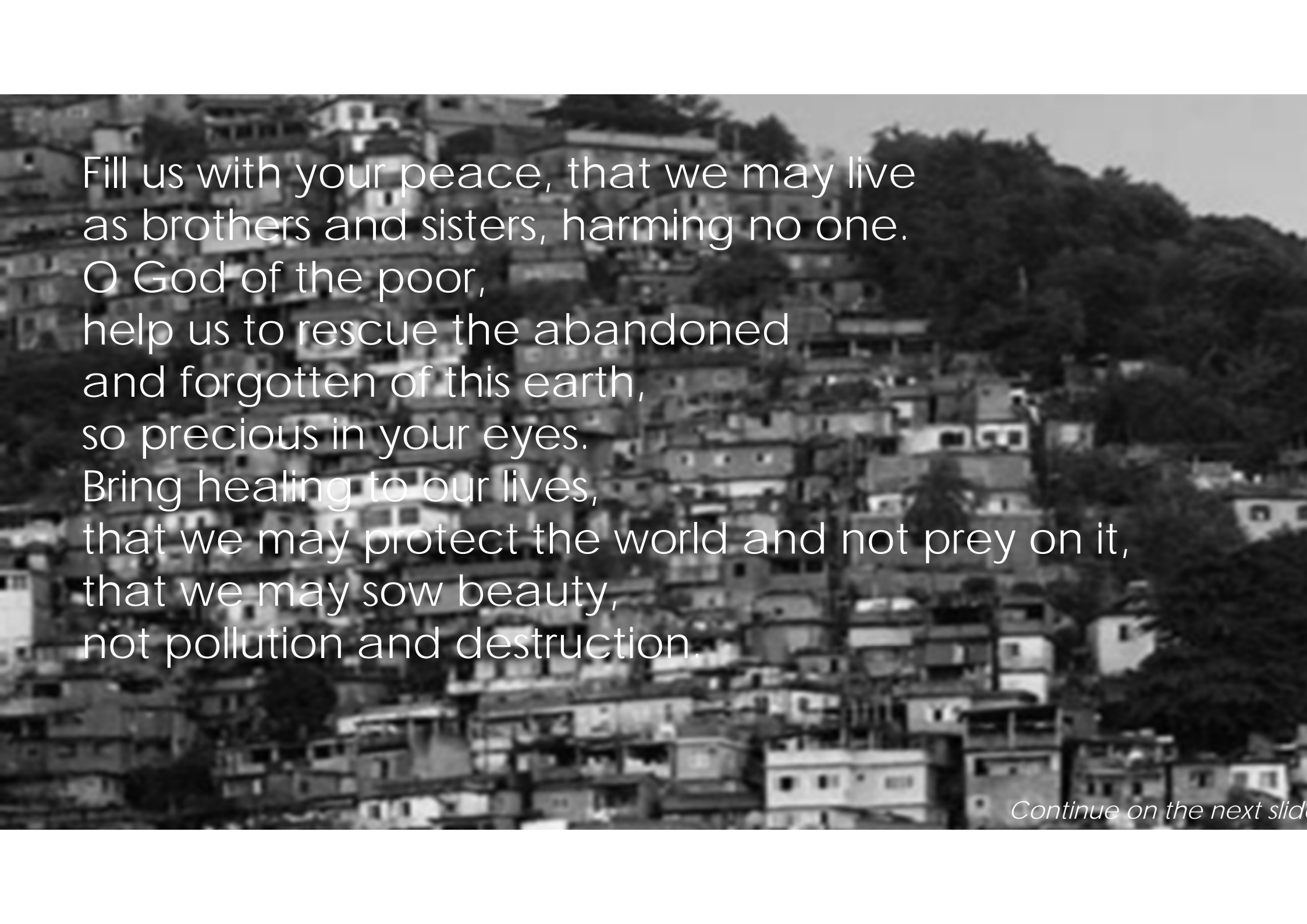




Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

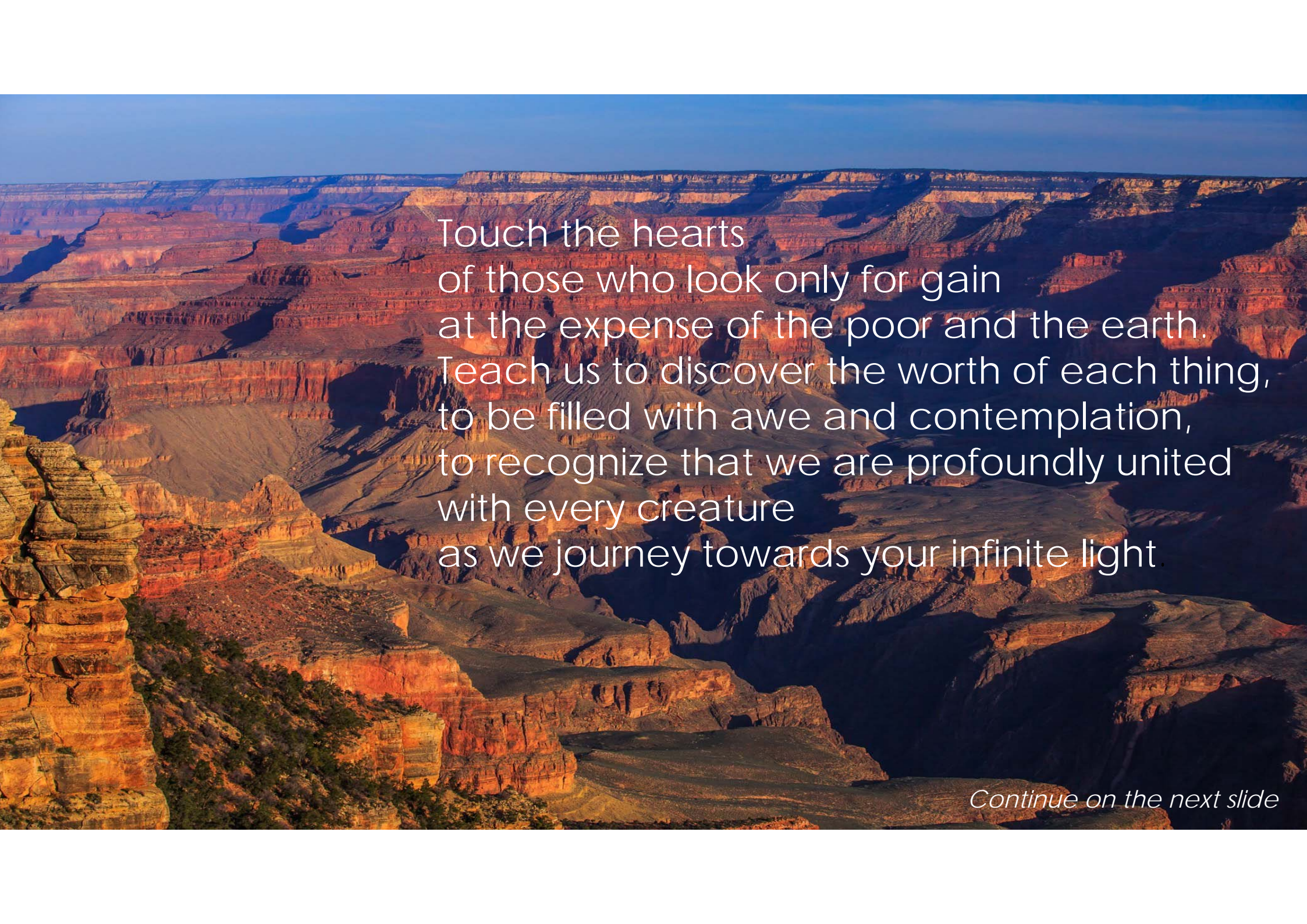
All powerful God,  
you are present in the universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.

*Continue on the next slide*



Fill us with your 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.

*Continue on the next slide*



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.

*Continue on the next slide*

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



# Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Last week G7 World leaders met to talk about issues affecting the globe, including Climate change.

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. Lord in your goodness, hear our prayer. Amen.





# Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small."

*What do you think this means for people today?*

***Creator God,***

***We give thanks for all of creation and praise you for the wonder of every living species.***

***Help us to care for this planet and every living creature  
and every human being that we share our planet with.***

***May we hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and may we respond with generosity.***

***We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.***

***Amen***

# Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June



We praise you Creator God,  
For our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light;  
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

We praise you God, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars which you have set shining in the  
heavens.

We praise you for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather

We praise you for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us, precious and pure.

We praise you, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:

We praise you for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us, with food

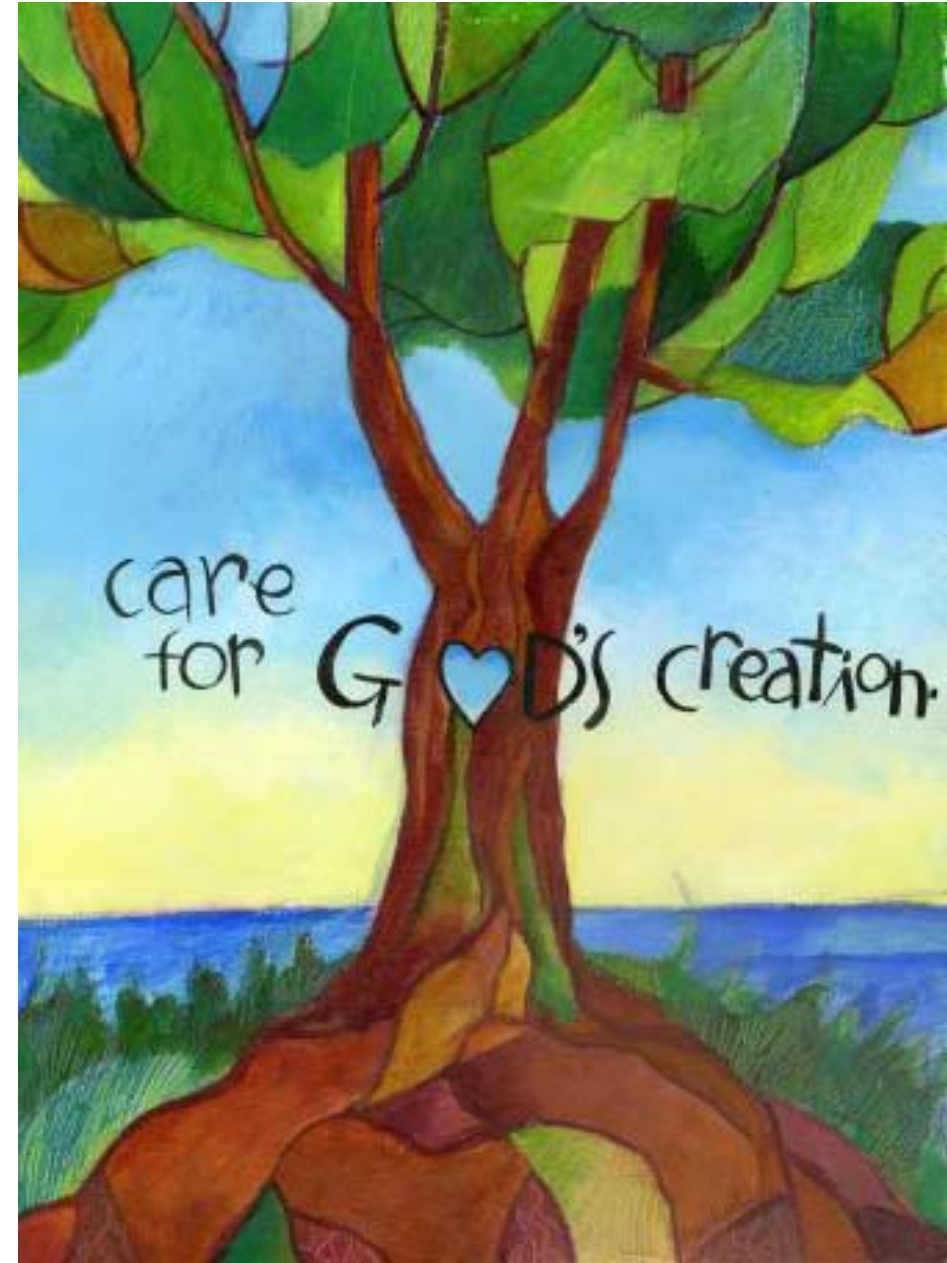
We praise you Creator God  
*St Francis' Canticle of the Sun (adapted)*

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June

*Let us pray:*

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. Amen.

[https://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si\\_en.pdf](https://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf)



# Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June: An ecological examen

All creation reflects the beauty and blessing of God's image.

Where was I most aware of this today?

Give thanks for the wonder that you are and for all of creation.

Can I identify how I made an effort to care for God's creation during this day?

What challenges or joys do I recall as I recall my care for creation?

How can I repair breaks in my relationship with creation?

As I look forward to tomorrow I ask the grace to see God in creation and help me to be mindful of my responsibility to care for our common home?



## Read more about how FCJ Sisters and Companions in Mission around the world are responding to the call of Laudato Si' to care for our common home:

<https://www.fcjsisters.org/who-we-are/our-mission/care-for-our-common-home/>



- Commitment of the FCJ Area of Europe to mark FCJ Bicentenary
  - The Living Water Myanmar project
  - Bringing Hope Through Planting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
  - Mangrove planting in Mindanao, Philippines
- FCJ Young Adult Network reflections celebrating five Years of Laudato Si'
  - Community Garden at the FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre, Calgary, Canada
  - Environmental Awareness and Disaster Risk Reduction Management at the FCJ Learning and Development Center, Manila
  - Stewardship of Creation plan at St Philomena School, Portsmouth, USA



Top: Sr Rowena FCJ in the mangrove, bottom: Sr Ciony and Companions in Mission, Philippines