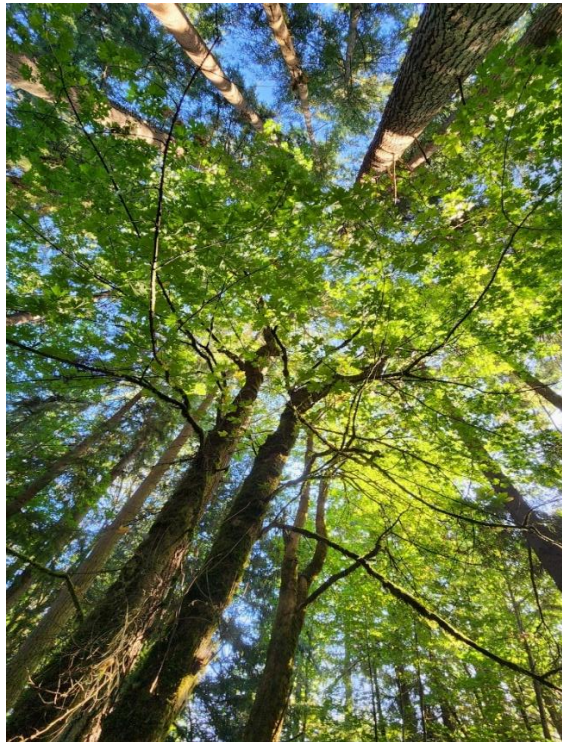


## 72 Hours Celebration of Easter



## Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Nature



This form has been adapted from a version presented by the St. Hubert Green Team of Whidbey Island. They are a part of the Greening Congregations Collaborative. Through this prayer, may we grow into greater awareness of ways that our actions affect both Earth and all of creation, including our fellow human beings

THANKS TO ST. HUBERT'S GREEN TEAM FOR SHARING THIS BEAUTIFUL PRAYER!

A communal or individual meditation (see schedule for communal meditation time)

**Communal Meditation:** This involves a slow meditative walk to the lake, taking turns reading, silence and singing.

**For individual meditation,** take as much time as you desire. You are invited to take this meditation and walk the grounds of Gwinwood with one of the crosses if you so desire.

*Please return these handouts and crosses so others may use them.*

### **Optional Music to be sung between Stations**

#### **Sung Kyrie - Diane Smith Whalen**

Kyrie Eleison, God have mercy and heal us.  
R. God have mercy and heal us.  
Christe Eleison, Christ have mercy and free us.  
R. Christ have mercy and free us.  
Kyrie Eleison, God have mercy, transform us.  
R. God have mercy, transform us.



#### **Were you there (public domain) adapted for the earth**

Were you there when they crucified the earth?  
Were you there when they crucified the earth?  
Oh.....sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they crucified the earth?

#### **There is a balm in Gilead (public domain)**

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

# First Sorrow: The Agony in the Garden~~ Our Role in Earth's Devastation

## Reader

We experience with Jesus his desperation, pain, and weariness as he anticipates the suffering to come.

Our human role in Earth's devastation has become an urgent question, unique to our place in history. This year,, marks a reversal from the United States' commitment to environmental justice for all to the "America First Energy Plan". This energy plan includes executive orders to approve two controversial oil pipelines. Further, an intention of this plan is to promote oil drilling in national forests and near national monuments and parks.

## Reading (Gospel of Mark 14: 37-38)

*He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'*

## The Cross in All of Creation – *motivating us toward justice*

*Words from Environmental Despair, by Joanna Macy.* Confronted with widespread suffering and threats of global disaster, responses of anguish - of fear, anger, helplessness, denial, grief and guilt - are normal. They are a measure of our humanity. And these feelings are probably what we have most in common. We are in grief together. Not to experience it would be a sign of moral atrophy. Pain is morbid only if denied.

**Reflection:** Have I become like a disciple asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane?

## **Second Sorrow: Jesus is Condemned to Death ~ Environmental Destruction**

### **Reader**

We remember the cruelty, fear, ignorance and injustice of Jesus' condemnation.

If everything is related, then the health of a society's institutions has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life. (Laudato Si #142)

### **Reading from (Isaiah 24:4-5)**

*Earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with Earth. Earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation -pointing us toward justice,**

*A statement from Earth Ministry reads:* American history is rife with examples of faith leaders who stood for what was right in the face of historic uncertainty and overwhelming political power. We will successfully navigate the narrow passage of these times by keeping our hearts open, confronting evil when we see it. Creative, non-violent resistance, and persistent, targeted advocacy, withdraws support from bad leaders and builds consensus for the common good.

**Reflection:** How can I practice compassion and resistance?

## **Third Sorrow: Jesus Falls the First Time ~ Most Vulnerable First to Collapse**

### **Reader**

Jesus was in agony and prayed to be given strength to endure his suffering.

*Hop Hopkins of the Sierra Club writes “We’re in this global environmental mess because we have declared parts of our planet to be disposable. The watersheds where we frack the earth to extract gas are considered disposable. Neighborhoods in Los Angeles, surrounded by urban oilfields, are considered disposable. The very atmosphere is considered disposable. When we pollute the hell out of a place, that’s a way of saying that the place—and the people and other life that calls the place home—are of no value.”*

### **Reading (Proverbs 31:8-9)**

*Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.  
Speak out, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation – *guiding us toward justice;***

*Jessica Imanaka writes the following about Integral Ecology. Pope Francis opens *Laudato Si* describing Earth as “among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor.” The document frames all environmental issues within the context of global inequality, emphasizing that environmental and social degradation affect the poor most. The concept of integral ecology helps us to open our eyes to see these connections and invites us to make an ecological conversion. We can begin “to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”.*

**Reflection:** How do my lifestyle choices affect those who are the most vulnerable?

## Fourth Sorrow: Jesus Meets His Mother ~ Earth as Mother

### Reader

From the beginning, Mary shared her son's life, including the awakening to the dangers of speaking against oppression and injustice.

*In the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Praised be You, God, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs."*

### Reading: Romans 8:22

*"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains."*

### The Cross in All of Creation – encouraging us toward justice:

*One of the Little Rock Nine, Melba Patillo Beals, writes this:*

"Some folks out there are asking, "What's happened lately? How did we get into this mess? Who let the dogs out?"

The problem is this: I let them out. You let them out. Because we paid no attention to what was going on. We released the ideology of hate, the ideology of racial supremacy, the ideology of discrimination, the ideology of 'them and us. We did it!

We were busy taking care of the many material things we've achieved, and we were out in our driveway shining that car instead of voting. OK?

So now, how can we confront those who want to go back? Irrespective of who you are or where you came from and what you believe, we are all responsible for each other."

**Reflection:** How do I keep the poor and future generations in mind as I make my decisions about how I use Earth's resources?

## **Fifth Sorrow: Simon is Recruited to Help Jesus ~ Live Simply So Others May Simply Live**

### **Reader**

Simon is pressed into helping Jesus carry the cross.

Our modern lifestyle of consumption puts a heavy burden on Earth. At the Burke Museum a display compares trash from before 1900 to the present day. Before 1900, primarily indigenous people each generated 25 pounds of trash per year that was 99% recycled. This trash was mainly shell midden from indigenous population. From the 1920's to 1950's, average yearly trash was 350 pounds per person, 50% recycled. Now the average yearly trash per individual is 2,100 pounds, 34% recycled. That means 700 pounds are recycled, and 1400 pounds go to the landfill each year.

### **Reading 1 Corinthians 12:24-26**

*But God has so arranged the body, each one of them as God chose. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation –supporting us toward justice**

The true cost of living the modern lifestyle is not measured by what we pay at the cash register. Rather it is measured by what we do to the rivers, valleys, oceans and land. In Seattle, some people practice sustainable living by community gardening, use of solar energy, riding a bicycle, buying locally, vacationing locally, and sharing tools, books, and expertise. Many members of St. Joseph community have begun to evaluate their patterns of consumption through the Bright Action program. Their commitment to conservation is an example of their compassionate care for the Earth.

### **Reflection**

For the sake of present and future generations, what next steps might I take to reduce consumption habits and garbage? Consider participating in the Bright Action program to find tools to help you with lifestyle choices. How can we make change toward a circular, zero waste future? Let us raise our voices to support development of public policies that enable sustainability.

## **Sixth Sorrow: Jesus Falls a Second Time ~ The Extinction of Species**

### **Reader**

In the face of violence and derision, Jesus falls again.

According to the UN Environment Programme, as a result of human driven climate and land-use changes, the Earth is in the midst of a mass extinction of life. Scientists estimate that 150-200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal become extinct every 24 hours. This is nearly 1,000 times the “natural” or “background” rate. We are in danger of losing 10 percent of plant and animal species by the end of this century. In the Columbia River basin, with fewer than 2% of original wild salmon and steelhead, outdated dams on the lower snake river are pushing even more species of fish toward extinction.

### **Reading: Psalm 50:10-11**

*For every animal of the forest is mine, beasts by the thousands on my mountains. I know every bird of the heavens; the creatures of the field belong to me.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation -calling us toward justice:**

*In Passion for God, Passion for the Earth, Elizabeth Johnson, writes: “When these living beings, these magnificent plants and animals, go extinct, they never come back again. We are killing birth itself, wiping out the future of our fellow creatures who took millions of years to evolve. We live in a time of a great dying off.”*

**Reflection:** What is precious to me that is in danger of “dying off?” How can I give voice to the changes that will be required to stop the great dying off.?

## **Seventh Sorrow: The Women of Jerusalem Weep ~ Weeping Water**

### **Reader**

We read that women beat their breasts and lamented over Jesus.

The wondrous cycle of Earth's life-giving water unites all of creation. Yet, the melting of the polar ice cap and thawing of permafrost, the rising sea levels, ocean acidification and disregard for water conservation threaten life in every corner of the globe. We see parched deserts and cities on fire, hurricanes and flooding, destroyed wetlands, contaminated waterways, and dying children and animals. The Global Conflict Tracker identifies 32 ongoing worldwide conflicts at this time. Military operations exact collateral damage disrupting water and sanitation systems in these areas of war. One in four people in the world lack access to safe water and basic sanitation.

### **Reading: (Jeremiah 9:10)**

*Take up weeping and wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, because they are laid to waste.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation – *lifting us toward justice***

Four-year-old Safia Adan lies in Baidoa Regional Hospital in southern Somalia with a tube through her nose. She is suffering from severe malnutrition and dehydration. She is one of the 365,000 children under 5 who are victims of the on-going drought ravaging Somalia. More than six million people, half the country's population, face food shortages. Limited water supplies become infected with bacteria rendering them undrinkable. Inadequate rainfall has wiped out crops and killed livestock. Thousands of people are migrating in search of better conditions, but camps with poor sanitation are making things worse with disease outbreaks.

**Reflection:** What causes me to weep about our world's water crisis?

## **Eighth Sorrow: Jesus Falls a Third Time Gasping for Air**

### **Reader**

Jesus' body and spirit were being broken, yet he struggled to continue his march.

Earth's atmosphere is gasping for breath, choked by contamination and pollution. An estimated quarter of the world's population is exposed to unhealthy concentrations of air pollutants. Nearly 2 million children under 5 years of age die annually from acute respiratory infections. In Seattle we now expect to endure hazardous air quality from wildfires between a few days to weeks each year.

### **Reading: Job 33:4**

*“The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of God gives me life.”*

### **The Cross in All of Creation- *inspiring us to justice***

Weather whiplash this year spawned ferocious wildfires in the Los Angeles area. Millions of LA residents experienced severe air quality deterioration and release of heavy metals such as lead and zinc. Meteorologist Jeff Masters predicted that thousands of individuals could die prematurely due to even short-term exposure to the smoke.

Aside from wildfires, higher levels of air pollution in Black and Brown communities are the result of decades-long discriminatory practices. According to Dr. Robert Bullard, who will be keynote speaker at the upcoming Laudato Si conference at Seattle University, for Black Americans, yesterday's housing crisis is today's air pollution crisis.

### **Reflection**

What one action could I take to breathe new life and hope into Earth? How can I speak up for the right of the marginalized to breathe decent air?

## **Ninth Sorrow: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments ~ Deforestation**

### **Reader**

The last vestige of dignity is taken away from Jesus. He is totally demeaned and vulnerable.

Almost half of the forests that once covered the Earth are gone. The acceleration of global deforestation leaves ecosystems vulnerable and degrades Earth's atmosphere. Legacy forests are those that have not been harvested for at least 75 years. They are characterized by unique biodiversity and ability to sequester immense amounts of carbon dioxide. In Washington state the DNR has failed to update information about legacy forests since 2015. Without proper cataloging, many legacy forests, are at risk of being auctioned off and clear cut.

### **Reading Matthew 27: 28-29**

*“They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”*”

### **The Cross in All of Creation – *comforting us toward justice***

Indigenous people, supported by grassroots citizens, are advocating in the courts for treaty rights that assure that they have access to legacy forest traditional medicines and foods. On the Olympic Peninsula, the cost for Elwha dam removal was greater than \$350 million, and salmon restoration was impressive a success. Now citizen investigators have discovered that some Elwha watershed forest parcels had been omitted from proper legacy designation. With the change this year in the DNR administration, several parcels adjacent to the Elwha watershed have been halted from sale. Now further study is possible, which is expected to bring about proper cataloging. Advocates are also requesting that sales of previously sold parcels be retracted and that the forests be preserved.

**Reflection:** How do I respond when I observe the degrading of creation and human cultures?

## **Tenth Sorrow: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross ~ Dependence on Fossil Fuels**

### **Reader**

After having been tortured on his way to his death, Jesus is crucified, the worst form of execution in the Roman Empire.

Besides causing environmental devastation, fossil fuel dependence inflames conflict and war. Fuel for travel, heating, manufacturing and transport put a heavy burden on Earth. Furthermore, the fossil fuel industry has found a new lifeline in plastics, with plans to expand production. Perhaps you are aware of the giant trash island in the ocean. Globally 32% of plastic waste ends up in the environment: 40% goes to a landfill, 14% is incinerated, 14% is recycled but only 2% effectively. How can we bring about change toward a circular, zero waste future?

### **Reading 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

*I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power...For when I am weak, then I am strong. The less I have, the more I depend on God.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation – *breathing us toward justice***

Buried below the Boreal Forest of northern Alberta, Canada is one of the world's largest oil deposits known as the tar sands. Extracting the oil comes at great environmental costs, including greenhouse gas emissions, toxic leaking, diversion and consumption of natural water resources, and habitat devastation. The Canadian Boreal Forest provides climate regulation and carbon storage for Earth and its ecosystem is the breeding grounds for over 30% of North American birds.

**Reflection:** What are the ways I can decrease pervasive dependence on fossil fuels and plastic?

## **Eleventh Sorrow: Jesus Dies on The Cross ~ Climate Change**

### **Reader**

Luke tells us: *“The sun was hidden and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon; and at that time the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two. Then Jesus gave a loud cry; ‘Abba, I commit my spirit into your hands.’ And after he said that, he gave up his spirit.”*

There are times when all seems lost, even to those of us who are the most optimistic. To whom and to what do we turn in these darkest of days?

### **Reading Hosea 4:3**

*Therefore, the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.*

### **The Cross in All of Creation –hoping us toward justice.**

*Theologian Howard Thurman writes: All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit.*

Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when worlds crash and efforts whiten into ash. Look well to the growing edge.

### **Take A Few Moments of Silence**

## Twelfth Sorrow: Jesus is Buried ~ Seeds of Hope

### Reader

Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus down from the cross and wrapped it in a clean linen sheet. Joseph, in spite of the violent mood surrounding him, was bold enough to ask for the body of his beloved friend. He then laid Jesus in his own tomb which had been hewn from a formation of rock.

Despite the challenge, there are many courageous people in the world today taking action to renew their covenant with Earth and one another. St. Joseph Climate Justice committee is offering the Bright Action platform to assist parishioners in learning about challenges and taking personal and collective actions. We invite you to join us to learn more during our simple soup supper directly following these prayers.

### Reading Matthew 13: 31-32

*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.*

### The Cross in All of Creation -freeing us for justice.

*John R. Lewis writes: “Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with goodness. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don’t be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice.”*

**Reflection** How am I a sign of hope for the renewal of Earth? What seeds are we sowing as a community parish family?

## **The casa del sol prayer of Jesus**

– John Philip Newell

Ground of all being,  
Mother of life, Father of the universe,  
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,  
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.

May there be food for the human family today  
and for the whole earth community.

Forgive us the falseness of what we have done  
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict  
but lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life, the vitality of life,  
and the glory of life are yours now and forever.

Amen.

(an alternative translation of the “Our Father”)

# A Prayer for Our Earth

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.  
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.

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.

*This prayer by Pope Francis appeared at the end of his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si'. It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.*