

## **Introduction to the Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. The World Council of Churches (WCC) was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October. Following this, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015. In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration. The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

## SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf (seasonofcreation.org)

"I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you" (Ex 3: 1-12)

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires is a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

We are encouraged to sign up to the *Laudato Si'* action platform and pledge to make a difference. Everybody has a part to play however small. https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/

(Laudato Si' Animators UK, July 2022)