

**Collect**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church

in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

READING

**Romans 8:19-25**

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hopethatthe creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

**Psalm 96:2-6, 11-13**

**R: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples. **R.**

For the Lord *is* great and greatly to be praised;
He *is* to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols,
But the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty *are* before Him;
Strength and beauty *are* in His sanctuary. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

Let the field be joyful, and all that *is* in it.
Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice
before the Lord. **R**
For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with His truth. **R**

**Psalm 24:1 (NIV)**

The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

Words from faith leaders of our Christian family summoning us to this special Season of Creation:

**“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.”**

*Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.*

**“We should not disappoint the Creator by spoiling His creation, with which He entrusted us from the dawn of the times and keeps protecting us from ourselves. We have to say STOP somewhere to the damage we are inflicting on purpose to the creation, blinded by our greed and lust for profit. We, who are aware of the gravity of the issue, should raise our voice in a relentless attempt to spread this awareness and make it become a part of the daily culture and pattern of behavior of individuals as well as business enterprises. A paradigm shift is of utmost necessity.”**

*Prof. Michel Abs, Secretary General, the Middle East Council of Churches*

**“In this Season of Creation, I urge all Chris- tians everywhere to take practical steps by taking care of the environment, conserving natural resources and promoting sustainability to protect the Earth. I call on all Christians to join this Season of Creation, working with a renewed hope, as Creation eagerly awaits for the revealing of the children of God.”**

*Seth Appiah-Kubi, National Director, A Rocha Ghana*

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