

San Francisco Franciscan Jubilee Celebration Care for Creation
Pilgrimage Reflection in Washington Park 5/9/2026

{Mark}

Welcome....

{Father Bobby}

Welcome...

A Christian prayer in union with creation from Pope Francis' Laudato Si'
(part 1)

*Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!*

*Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!*

*Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!*

{Mark}

CANTICLE OF ALL CREATURES

By St. Francis of Assisi

Translated from the Italian by Dana Gioia

We will go through the whole canticle but stop along the way for additional reflection. As you listen, keep in mind three things. First, that St Francis wrote this prayer of gratitude on his death bed. Thus, it is not a superficial appreciation of nature. It takes us deeper into the core gospel message. Second, the canticle brings out the aliveness of creation. If you ever hold a living thing in your hand, you will naturally cherish and nurture it in a way different than if you were holding a machine. Third, the integrated spiritual ecology of St. Francis and of the Laudato Si' Encyclical of Pope Francis means humanity is part of nature and has a key role to play. In the canticle, humanity is present as the person praying and praising. What a gift to play that role in the complex web of creation!

{Father Bobby}

*"Most high, all powerful, and most good Lord,
Yours are the praises, glory, honor, blessings.
Only to you, Altissimo, do they belong.
And none are worthy to pronounce Your name.*

*Praise to You, my Lord, for all creation,
Most specially our noble Brother Sun,
Bringing the day by which You grant us light.
He shines, so fair and radiant in his splendor,
We recognize in him, Most High, your likeness."*

{Joyce}

Call: Let's take a moment to take in the sun. The sun is a reflection of God's glory.

Psalm 19:4-6 – *"In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun... It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth."*

{Maritza}

Reflection: The sun is the ultimate source of energy for our planet. Consider that the Earth is at the perfect distance from the sun to sustain our planet for us to receive energy and light. Feel the energy from the sun and offer gratitude for the warmth and life the sun provides all of us and for all the ways both directly and indirectly that it provides energy for our planet and our civilization. Cherish your use of all energy.

{Carol}

Action: We have been harvesting stored energy from the sun in the form of wood for thousands of years and from fossil fuels for hundreds of years. This type of energy has been a gift, but we now can harvest energy directly from the sun with solar panels and wind turbines without polluting and without burning. The clean energy transition is key to lessening further global warming and lessening pollution. So, let's all advocate for clean energy policies like solar and wind to replace the use of fossil fuels. Please encourage your families, schools, churches, and work places to adopt solar plus storage with batteries and embrace electrification of our homes and transportation so we can move to a cleaner, healthier society for everyone.

{Father Bobby}

Canticle:

*"Praise to You, my Lord, for Sister Moon
And all the stars You set among the heavens,
Which are so precious, bright, and beautiful.*

*Praise to You, my Lord, for Brother Wind,
And for the air, both stormy and serene.
In every clime, You give your creatures sustenance.*

{Joyce}

Call: Feel the air on your skin. Feel it entering into your body as you take a breath. Call upon God with each breath inward: 'Yah'. And with each breath outward: 'Weh'. Yahweh. Yahweh. Yahweh.

Job 33:4

"The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

{Maritza}

Reflection: Breath is life-giving to all creatures. The breath inward gives us something we need and the breath outward releases what we must no longer hold onto. Our every breath reminds us that we are in a blessed rhythm of dependence on our Creator. And it is a perfect model of being in right relationship with Creation and our Creator. It is a model of divine sufficiency. We are given what we need, but we cannot hoard it. Our every breath also reminds us that we share our atmosphere with all other creatures and future generations. We must do all we can to keep that atmosphere in balance for them.

{Carol}

Action: Let's all think about one thing we can do to keep the air cleaner and the atmosphere in balance. Consider making your next appliance or vehicle electric, if possible. Lessen your food waste by composting to reduce methane gas release. Encourage gardeners to take advantage of programs to replace gas-powered equipment with electric equipment. Essentially, take time and think about what is released into the atmosphere in products you use. Remember, the international community was able to come together to help heal the ozone layer by removing ozone-depleting substances, so we can make a difference.

{Father Bobby}

*Praise to You, my Lord, for Sister Water,
Who is so helpful, humble, prized, and pure."*

{Joyce}

Call: Water is a gift from God, a source of life for all living things.

Revelation 21:6

"To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

{Carol shows a vessel with water.}

{Maritza}

Reflection: We know that all life depends on water, thus we must realize that water is a human right. The most vulnerable are affected by water scarcity and water pollution. Sadly, every continent on Earth is now experiencing some form of water crisis. Did you know that the average person in the developing world uses 2.64 gallons of water a day while the average American family uses more than 300 gallons daily.

{Carol}

Action: We have a sacred obligation to look after our water. So, ask yourself, how can I be a better water steward? Consider the water use required for the food you eat and the products you purchase. What are ways I can conserve water at home? At School? at Work? What home practices can I change to conserve and/or not pollute our sewage systems to better protect our local rivers, streams and creeks?

{Father Bobby}

*"Praise to You, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
Illuminating night for us. He is
Robust and cheerful, beautiful and strong.*

*Praise to You, my Lord, for Mother Earth,
Who feeds and governs us. From her we gain
All luscious fruits, all colored herbs and flowers."*

{Joyce}

Call: Praise be to God for the trees and grass that surround us. The canticle calls us to appreciate divine abundance that nourishes our body and our soul. It is not a model of scarcity but of abundance and strength so long as we respect the life-giving preciousness of what we have been given.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

{Maritza}

Reflection: Take a look around Washington Park. Let's use our 5 senses to take in the beauty around us. What beautiful living things do we see? *(Have people name all that they see)*. Can we see all the colors of the rainbow? We thank you God for the biodiversity of living things you created. Think about trees and how they provide not only shade but also produce oxygen for living creatures, and absorb carbon dioxide, how their roots filter water, and how trees nurture other creatures above and below the soil, and how they boost our mental health.

{Carol}

Action: Give a hug to a tree the next time you are out walking and thank it for the life it protects and provides for. Support the preservation and replanting of trees especially in urban environments to protect the vulnerable from heat island effects. Support the Bishops of the Global South call to action: "to demand zero deforestation in all biomes by 2030 as an urgent commitment in the face of the climate crisis." Please advocate for the protection and enlargement of public lands from encroachment by developers and industry. Right now, the current administration is trying to rescind the Roadless Rules Act established in 2001.

{Father Bobby}

Canticle:

*"Praise to You, my Lord, for those who pardon
who prompted by your love bear sickness and disaster
Blessed are they who suffer these in peace,
They shall be crowned by You, Altissimo.*

*Praise to You, my Lord, for Sister Death,
From whom no mortal body can escape.
Doomed are those she finds in mortal sin.
Blessed are those found faithful to Your will.
The second death will pass them by unharmed.*

*Praise and bless the Lord and give Him thanks.
And serve Him in supreme humility."*

{Joyce}

Call: Let us reflect on those who are most harmed by our individual and collective misuse and exploitation of creation and how we are called to help bear and to help lessen the burden of those who suffer, especially those displaced from their homelands. Environmental destruction and climate change increasingly contribute to that displacement.

Leviticus 19:34

"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

{Maritza}

Leviticus goes on to emphasize that we are all temporary residents of this world as does St. Francis in praising Sister Death. So what lasts? We believe that relationships last for all eternity. When we think about Creation, we tend to think first about the physical natural world around us. But relationships are a real and lasting part of Creation. And as the canticle reminds us we have the ability to be in right relationship, or not,

with ourselves, each other, Creation, and our Creator. So let us take a moment to feel the solidarity and love that links us today. Link hands if you feel so inclined.

{Carol}

Action: Let's all take time right now to write on your leaf a prayerful action you can perform this year to benefit or minimize harm to Mother Earth to carry on the legacy of St. Francis. Hold on to this leaf and when we get to the National Shrine of St. Francis, we will place your leaf on the tree branch as a personal offering to be presented during the offertory at our 'Care for Creation' Mass.

{Father Bobby}

We will now conclude with the rest of the prayer from Laudato Si'

A Christian prayer in union with creation (part 2)

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.*

*Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.*

*Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.*

*God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.*

Enlighten those who possess power and money

*that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.*

The poor and the earth are crying out.

*O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.*

{Mark}

As we prepare to walk together to the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi, let us, like Mother Mary, “ponder all these things in our heart” and let us show our unity by singing St. Francis’s Prayer before we start::

The Prayer of St. Francis (Peace Prayer)

Make me a channel of Your peace:	Where there is darkness, only light;
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love;	And where there’s sadness, ever joy.
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord	<i>{Repeat refrain}</i>
And where there’s doubt, true faith in You;	Make me a channel of Your peace:
{Refrain}	It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
O Master, grant that I may never seek	In giving of ourselves that we receive,
So much to be consoled as to console,	And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.
To be understood as to understand,	Amen.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.	
Make me a channel of Your peace:	
Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope;	