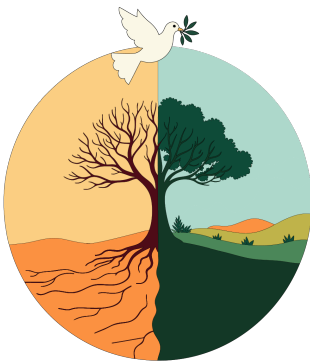


Interfaith & Care For Creation

Taizé Service For Readers



Garden of Peace

Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Taizé Ecumenical Service

Entrance Chant.

All. In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice
Look to God, do not be afraid, lift up your voices, the Lord is near
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Celebrant 1 Welcome and Introduction.

Welcome and thank you to the various communities who have come together for our Ecumenical Season of Creation Taizé Service.

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites in a celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. We celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as a divine continuing act. We acknowledge that we are part of God's creation and that our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. Caring for creation is central to our faith. During the Season of Creation we are encouraged to turn to scripture to reflect on how our relationships with God, with one another and with Creation are intertwined. The theme this year is Peace With Creation. It is rooted in the prophetic writings in Isaiah 32:14-18 which describe a future restoration after a period of desolation and judgement. Let's now listen to the passage

Isaiah 32:14-18 For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks. Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

Reader 1 God's plan for creation was justice and peace but through sin, humanity has broken its relationship with God, with one another and the rest of Creation. In this passage, Isaiah describes what would happen if God allowed consequences of sin to play out. The homes of the affluent will be abandoned. The streets of the cities will become desolate, and uninhabited. The animals will reclaim the city but only because conflict has forced humans to abandon it. The picture of devastated cities and wastelands reflect the destructive impact that human activities can have on our earthly home.

Reader 2 The fortress" and "watchtower" in the passage symbolize Jerusalem and its strongholds. This was written about 800 years before the birth of Christ but it could have been written for today. Over 120 armed conflicts are taking place in the world today. Violations of international law are destroying basic human rights. In 2024, 123.2 million people were forcibly displaced. As well as armed conflicts, this is driven by persecution, climate change, human rights violations, pollution, deforestation, mining, etc. Through our unsustainable lifestyles, our excessive consumption, the pollution we create, our throwaway culture, human trafficking, the lack of respect for the sanctity of life, global warming caused by human activities, etc., we are also declaring war on Creation on a daily basis.

Celebrant 1 Prayer

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that we may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.
Amen

Chant. Nada te turbo, nada te espante quien a Dios tiene nada le falta

(Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, he who has God lacks nothing)

Nada te turbo, nada te espante solo Dios basta

(Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, God alone suffices)

Celebrant 2 Isaiah 32: 14-16

For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks. Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

Reader 3

After painting a bleak picture of how man’s actions have destroyed creation, Isaiah presents hope. He suggests that real and lasting change in our hearts and on earth can only come about through divine intervention. Restoration hinges on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit hinges on a repentant heart and the turning away from sin.

Reader 4

In the face of today’s global crisis, we also turn to hope—hope rooted in God’s unchanging love and faithfulness. This hope must be more than words. It needs to take shape in our prayer, in the actions we choose, the choices we make and in the way we seek peace—with each other, with Creation, and with God.

Creation is a gift, entrusted to us by God. We are called to care for it, to work with others to protect it, and to pass it on safely to future generations. In these difficult times, healing begins when we live with hope: by walking closely with God and by loving others as Christ has shown us.

Celebrant 2 Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit,
enflame once more the dying embers of our weariness.
Shake us out of our complacency.
Whisper our names once more,
and scatter your gifts of grace with wild abandon.
Break open the prisons of our inner being,
and let your raging justice be our sign of liberty.

Chant All. Veni Sancte Spiritus (repeating chant).

Choir Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God; disperse the shadows over us, renew and strengthen your people.

Most kindly warming light! Enter the inmost depths of our hearts, for we are faithful to you. Without your presence we have nothing worthy, nothing pure.

On all who put their trust in you and receive you in faith, shower all your gifts. Grant that they may grow in you and persevere to the end. Give them lasting

Celebrant 3 Isaiah 32;14- 18.

For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks. Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

Reader 5

Nearly three thousand years ago, the faithful remnant in Israel were struggling against overwhelming circumstances. Isaiah’s prophetic vision was a source of reassurance for them. That same vision continues to be a source of hope and encouragement for us today. The global challenges we face, may seem overwhelming and insurmountable but the Holy Spirit possesses infinite creativity. He knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs including the most complex and inscrutable. Isaiah reveals that blessings will follow when the people live in accordance with God’s will. He prophesied that the Holy Spirit will transform the wilderness into a fruitful field once more. This reminds us of God’s active presence within Creation and also of His willingness to renew His people, bringing transformation to both to their spiritual lives and the environment. Justice and righteousness will be the fruit of the spiritual renewal leading to lasting peace and security for God’s people.

Reader 6

When we hear the word peace, we often think of the absence of war or conflict. But the Hebrew word “shalom” means so much more. Shalom speaks of wholeness and completeness—nothing broken nothing missing. It is life as God intended it: full, balanced, and flourishing.

Shalom is harmony in our relationships—with Godwith ourselves with one another and with all Creation. It is the security and calm that come from living in God’s ways. In Scripture, shalom is not passive. It is active, bringing justicerighteousnessand well-being to every part of life. It is the fullness of blessing, where everything and everyone finds their place.

This is the peace Christ promises: not as the world gives, but the deep peace of God. True shalom is God’s gift—and it is our calling to work for wholeness, healing, and harmony in all Creation.

Celebrant 3 Prayer.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life**

Chant All Adoramus Te Domine (Lord, We Worship You)

Choir. With the angels and archangels
With the apostles and evangelists
With all who witness to the Gospel of the Lord
With all your people of the Church throughout the world.

Celebrant 3. Closing Words, invitation to tea and coffee in the hall,**Final Prayer and Blessing****Final Chant**

All. Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum, omnes, gentes, alleluia (Oh praise the Lord all ye nations)

Choir Alleluia, alleluia. Let everything living give praise to the Lord.

