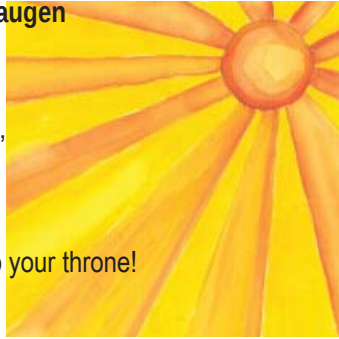


Closing Song: Canticle of the Sun by Marty Haugen

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!
Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,
he carries the light of the Lord in his rays;
the moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne!



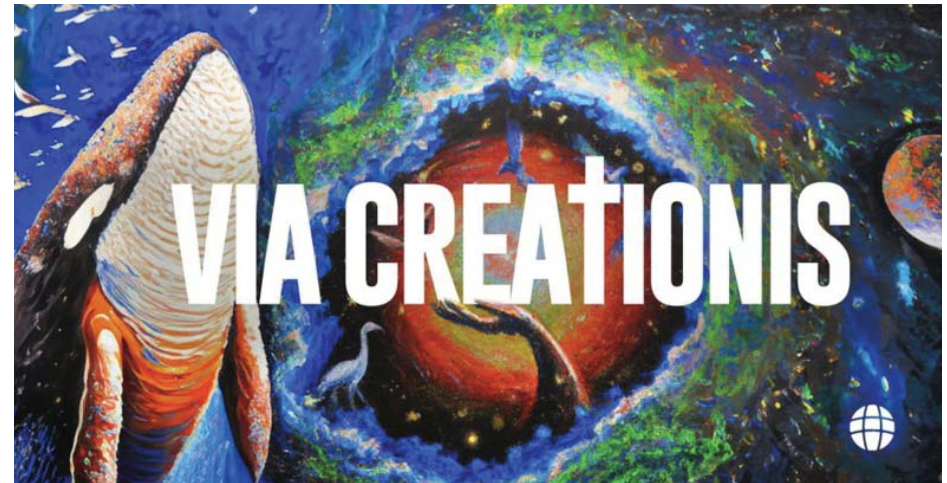
The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!
Praise for the wind that blows through the trees,
the seas' mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;
they blow where they will
they blow where they please to please the Lord!

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!
Praise for the rain that waters our fields,
and blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
from death unto life her mystery revealed
springs forth in joy!

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!
Praise for the earth,
who makes life grow
the creatures you made to let your life show;
the flowers and trees that help us to know
the heart of love

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!
Sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

*Canticle of the Sun: Text and Music by Marty Haugen, ©1980, GIA Publications, Inc.
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The Way of Creation

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish • September 1, 2026

PRAYER SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

- Words of Welcome
- Sign of the Cross
- Doxology-Sung by **All**:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

1st Station THE GOODNESS OF LIGHT

L.: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
 All: **Because by your holy Word you have created the world.**

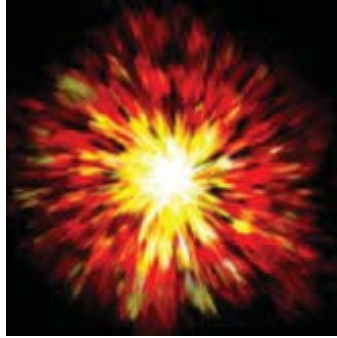
A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:1, 3-4):

In the beginning... God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness.

* * *

The Creation

And God stepped out on space,
 And He looked around and said,
 "I'm lonely —
 I'll make me a world."



And far as the eye of God could see
 Darkness covered everything,
 Blacker than a hundred midnights
 Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,
 And the light broke,
 And the darkness rolled up on one side,
 And the light stood shining on the other,
 And God said, "That's good!"

Then God reached out and took the light in His hands,
 and God rolled the light around in His hands
 Until He made the sun;
 And He set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
 And the light that was left from making the sun
 God gathered it up in a shining ball
 And flung it against the darkness,
 Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
 And God said, "That's good!"

Excerpts from The Creation by James Weldon Johnson

10th Station THE GOODNESS OF THE TRINITY

L.: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
 All: **Because by your holy Word you have created the world.**

A reading from the Gospel of John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

* * *



St Patrick's Breastplate, Last Stanza

I bind unto myself the name,
 The strong name of the trinity;
 by invocation of the same.
 The Three in One, and One in Three,
 Of whom all nature hath creation;
 Eternal Father, Spirt, Word;
 Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
 Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

L: God felt a love within the Triune God, and it was very, very good.
 L: God felt a deep, abiding, compassionate love for all human beings, and it was very, very good.
 L: God leads us all into this love story, begging us to love each other; to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.
 L: With eyes to see and ears to hear, we proclaim this is very, very good.
 All: **Thank you God for the sacred gift of life. Amen**

9th Station THE GOODNESS OF EVERYTHING

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy Word you have created the world.

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:31, 2:3):

God looked at everything that was made, and found it very good... God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation that had been done.



A reading from the Book of History:

A few thousand years ago, the love story began between God and God's people. Among other things, the Bible taught about the goodness of the whole cosmos and the importance of rest. We were invited to enjoy and be thankful for this created world that is "very good".

At that time, the Creator became a creation. The very "Word" through whom all was created "became flesh". The womb of a young Jewish woman was the setting for the incredible mystery of the Incarnation.

In recent times, we have learned to look at everything God has made with awe-inspiring detail – ranging from the telescopic detail of astronomical wonders to the microscopic detail of biological wonders.

L: As God saw, we also see that everything is good, very good.
All: All Creation is good, very good. Praise be to God!

Yet, over the years, instead of contemplating how everything is "very good" and instead of letting the Earth rest, too many of us have seen how everything is "very exploitable". Driven by greed and selfishness, we have ravaged our forests, polluted our waters, poisoned our soil, disrupted our climate, and decimated non-human populations, while also trashing the most vulnerable among us humans. We raise a heartfelt cry of lament and repentance for this sin.

Now, more than ever, we uplift the sacredness of all Creation. Now, more than ever, we honor God as Creator. Now, more than ever, we celebrate the planets, the sun and moon and stars of the universe and Mother Earth's web of life.

L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of all Creation.
All: Amen.

L: God saw that the light was good.
All: For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!
 L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of light.
All: Amen

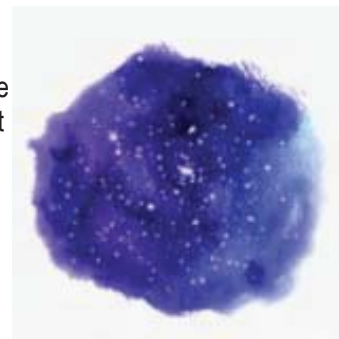
2nd Station THE GOODNESS OF CELESTIAL BODIES

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy Word you have created the world.

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:14, 16, 18):

Then God said: Let there be lights in the dome of the sky... God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night, and the stars... God saw that it was good.

* * *



St Patrick's Breastplate, fourth stanza

I bind unto myself today
 The virtues of the starlit heaven.
 The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
 the flashing of the lightning free,
 The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
 The stable earth, the deep salt sea, around the old eternal rocks.

L: God saw that the stars were good.
 L: God saw that the galaxies were good.
 L: God saw that the Sun was good.
 L: God saw that the Moon was good.
All: For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!
 L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of celestial bodies.
All: Amen.

3rd Station THE GOODNESS OF THE SKY

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: **Because by your holy Word you have created the world.**

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:6, 8):

Then God said: Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other. God made the dome, and it separated the water below the dome from the water above the dome. And so it happened. God called the dome "sky."

* * *



Eagle Poem

To pray you open your whole self to sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more that you can't see, can't hear,
Can't know except in moments steadily growing,
and in languages that aren't always sound but other circles of motion.

We see you, see ourselves
and know that we must take the utmost care and kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of all this,
and breathe, knowing we are truly blessed.

Excerpt from Eagle by Joy Harjo

L: God saw that the sky was good.
All: **For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!**
L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of the sky.
All: **Amen.**

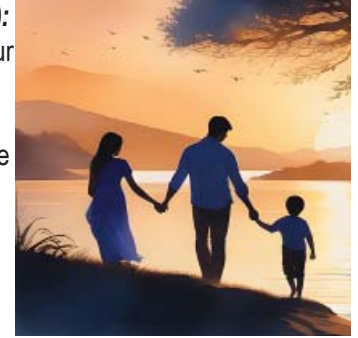
8th Station THE GOODNESS OF HUMANS

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: **Because by your holy Word you have created the world.**

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:26-27):

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in God's image; in the image of God male and female were created.

* * *



An Ancient Celtic Prayer at the birth of a baby

The little drop of the Father, on thy little forehead, beloved one
The little drop of the Son on thy little forehead, beloved one
The little drop of the Spirit on thy little forehead, beloved one
To aid thee from the gnome to shield thee from the spectre
To shield thee for the Three
To shield thee, to surround thee, to save thee for the Three
To fill thee with the grace.

*Poem found in Carmina Gadelica, compiled by Alexander Carmichael
(The midwife or woman present would pray these words while
sprinkling little drops of water on the wee one's head)*

L: God saw that all human beings were good.
L: God saw that all human cultures were good.
L: God loved everyone, everywhere and saw that was very, very good.
All: **For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!**
L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of humans.
All: **Amen.**

7th Station THE GOODNESS OF LAND CREATURES

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy Word you have created the world.

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:24-25):

Then God said: Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal. And so it happened: God made every kind of wild animal, every kind of tame animal, and every kind of thing that crawls on the ground. God saw that it was good.

* * *



The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

Excerpt from The Summer Day by Mary Oliver

L: God saw that bugs and worms and snails were good.
L: God saw that amphibians and reptiles were good.
L: God saw that lions, and tigers and bears were good.
All: **For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!**
L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of land creatures.
All: **Amen.**

4th Station THE GOODNESS OF EARTH AND SEA

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy Word you have created the world.

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:9-10):

Then God said: Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear. And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land “earth,” and the basin of water he called “sea.” God saw that it was good.

* * *



Cultivating and caring for creation is an instruction of God which he gave not only at the beginning of history, but has also given to each one of us; it is part of his plan; it means making the world increase with responsibility, transforming it so that it may be a garden, an inhabitable place for us all.

Pope Francis, World Environment Day, June 5, 2013.

L: God saw that the Earth's crust was good.
L: God saw that the sea was good.
L: God saw that freshwater bodies were good.
L: God saw that continents and islands were good.
All: **For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!**
L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of the earth and the sea.
All: **Amen.**

5th Station THE GOODNESS OF PLANTS

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: **Because by your holy Word you have created the world.**

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:11-12):

Then God said: Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And so it happened: the earth brought forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw that it was good.

* * *



Psalm 1: 2-3

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on the law day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither.

L: God saw that life was good.
L: God saw that moss and ferns were good.
L: God saw that soil was good.
L: God saw that conifers were good.
L: God saw that flowering plants were good.
All: **For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!**
L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of plants.
All: **Amen.**

6th Station THE GOODNESS OF WATER AND AIR CREATURES

L: We adore you, O Creator, and we bless you.
All: **Because by your holy Word you have created the world.**

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:20-21):

Then God said: Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky. God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of crawling living creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw that it was good.

* * *



Psalm 104: 1, 10-13, 25, 35

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

God makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.

They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

The birds of the air nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.

God waters the mountains from God's upper chambers;
the earth is satisfied by the fruit of God's work.

There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number
—living things both large and small.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord.

L: God saw that fish was good.
L: God saw that all marine life was good.
L: God saw that all the birds and flying creatures were good.
All: **For the goodness of all Creation, praise be to God!**
L: Thank you, dear Creator, for the sacred gift of water and air creatures.
All: **Amen.**