



(Image: Unsplash)

Dear Friends,

You might have noticed spring is on the way!

Around the world many churches set aside 1 September to 4 October as *Season of Creation* - a time of giving thanks and committing ourselves to care for the gift of creation.

As we reflect on the crisis affecting our climate, fauna and flora, *Season of Creation* invites us to celebrate the beauty of the natural world, lament what is being lost, and join God's work of restoration, justice, and hope.

Although *Season of Creation* is a relatively recent addition to the Church calendar, it has deep ecumenical roots. It began in 1989 when the Eastern Orthodox Church established 1 September as a *Day of Prayer for Creation*. Australian theologian Rev Dr Norm Habel AM then played a pioneering role in developing a dedicated *Season of Creation* for churches concluding on 4 October, the *Feast of St Francis of Assisi*. (As this falls in the school holidays we'll be celebrating the *Feast of St Francis* – with our annual ***Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday 18 October***. Please tell your family and friends – and your pets! They are all invited!)

Since 2018, Common Grace has been providing wonderful resources to help individuals, churches, and small groups celebrate God's creation and take meaningful action for creation and climate justice. You can see some of this year's resources listed below – or go to https://www.commongrace.org.au/season_of_creation_intro:

Season of Creation Bible Study Series

All Things New – Faith, Creation, and the Wider Story of God is a five-session Bible study from Common Grace.

Through Biblical reflections, discussion, prayer, and practical actions, this series explores what it means to faithfully follow Jesus as we care for God's creation.

[Register by clicking this link to download Common Grace's Season of Creation Bible Study](#)

Faith & Climate: A Conversation Guide

A simple, encouraging guide to help you talk about climate change with friends, family, or your church community. Offers practical tips, myth-busting truths, and a faith-based perspective to help you speak with grace and courage.

[Register by clicking this link to download Common Grace's Conversation Guide](#)

Daily Devotional

This beautiful devotional, curated by Meredith Walker-Harding, offers a simple way to pause each day, listen for God's voice, and deepen your relationship with creation through daily Bible passages, prayers, and poems reflecting on faith, creation, and climate justice.

(There is no need to register or download this as it is attached to this email!)

Let me close by sharing with you one of the prayers from the Daily Devotional.

THE BEAUTY OF NATURE Walter Rauschenbusch

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;

For the wide sky and the blessed sun,

For the salt sea and the running water,

For the everlasting hills

And the never-resting winds,

For trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank you for our senses

By which we hear the songs of birds,

And see the splendour of the summer fields,

And taste of the autumn fruits,

And rejoice in the feel of the snow,

And smell the breath of the spring.

Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;

And save our souls from being so blind

That we pass unseeing

When even the common thorn bush Is aflame with your glory,

O God our creator,

Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen!

Belinda