



# CARE OF CREATION

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN COLORADO**

Welcome to Celebrating  
Creation in  
2024

January 16, 2024

Offered by the Creation Care Team for the Episcopal  
Church in Colorado



# Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you reveal your goodness in the beauty and diversity of creation; in the circle dance of earth and air and water; in a universe rich in processes that support growth and coherence, distinctiveness and community; and above all in the gift of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself to serve your world. And so we offer thanks and praise to you, one God in three persons: the Author and Source of all, Christ the Incarnate Word, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*(From Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation, Standing Commission for Liturgy and Music, The Episcopal Church)*



# EARTH DAY

April 22

# The Episcopal Church Commitment

The Episcopal Church has asked individuals and congregations to commit to its [Creation Care Pledge](#).

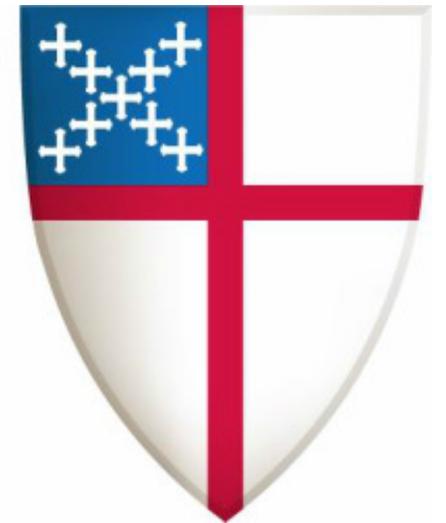
It calls us to be:

- **Loving:** We will share our stories of love and concern for the Earth and link with others who care about protecting the sacred web of life.
- **Liberating:** We will stand with those most vulnerable to the harmful effects of environmental degradation and climate change—women, children, poor people, and communities of color, refugees, migrants.
- **Life-Giving:** We will change our habits and choices in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on the Earth.

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



*welcomes you*





# What Is Earth Day?

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- April 22 each year (April is known as Earth Month)
- 50+ year old tradition, established in 1970 in the wake of Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring.
- Dedicated to bringing the environment to the forefront.
- Helped lead to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Each year, Earth Day Network works to bring together communities around the world in a huge campaign to tackle modern-day environmental problems in effort to continue the Earth Day tradition.



# Earth Day Possibilities

- Why Participate?
- Ways to Engage and Resources Available:
  - [Litany for the Planet](#) (pp 248-250 of Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation)
  - [Earthday.org](#)
    - This year's theme: "Planet vs. Plastics"
  - [Faith Climate Action Week \(IPL\)](#)
    - April 19-28, 2024
    - This year's theme: "Common Ground: Cultivating Connections between Food, Faith, and Climate"
  - [15 Ways Christians Can Celebrate Earth Day](#)
  - [Creation Justice Ministries](#)
  - [Litany of Hope for Earth Day](#) (Eco-Justice Ministries)
  - [Proclamation for Earth Day](#) (Message from White House)

A hand holding a crystal ball against a sunset background. The crystal ball reflects the sunset and the hand holding it. The background is a soft, blurred sunset over a body of water.

# Envisioning Our Future

- Where are you feeling energy around Earth Day?
- Reach out at any time:

Carl Peterson  
Care of Creation Team  
Episcopal Diocese of Colorado  
farm1947@gmail.com  
970-402-6747



# ROGATION DAYS

April 25

May 6-8

# Rogation Days

Warding off disaster ...  
blessing the fields



# Rogation Days

## Overview

- “Rogation” from Latin *rogare* = “to ask” — asking for the appeasement of God’s anger, and for protection from calamities.
- Rogation days are days of prayer and fasting in Western Christianity
- Observed with procession and the Litany of the Saints
- Major Rogation is April 25 (for Roman Catholics)
- Rogation Sunday is the 5th Sunday after Easter (for Anglicans)
- Minor Rogations are Monday to Wednesday preceding Ascension Day

# Rogation Days

## The Origins

- Major Rogation replaced Roman procession: “Robigalia”—a sacrifice to propitiate Robigus, the deity of agricultural disease (wheat rust in particular)
- Minor Rogation days introduced in 5th-7th centuries.



# Rogation Days

Observation: Traditional

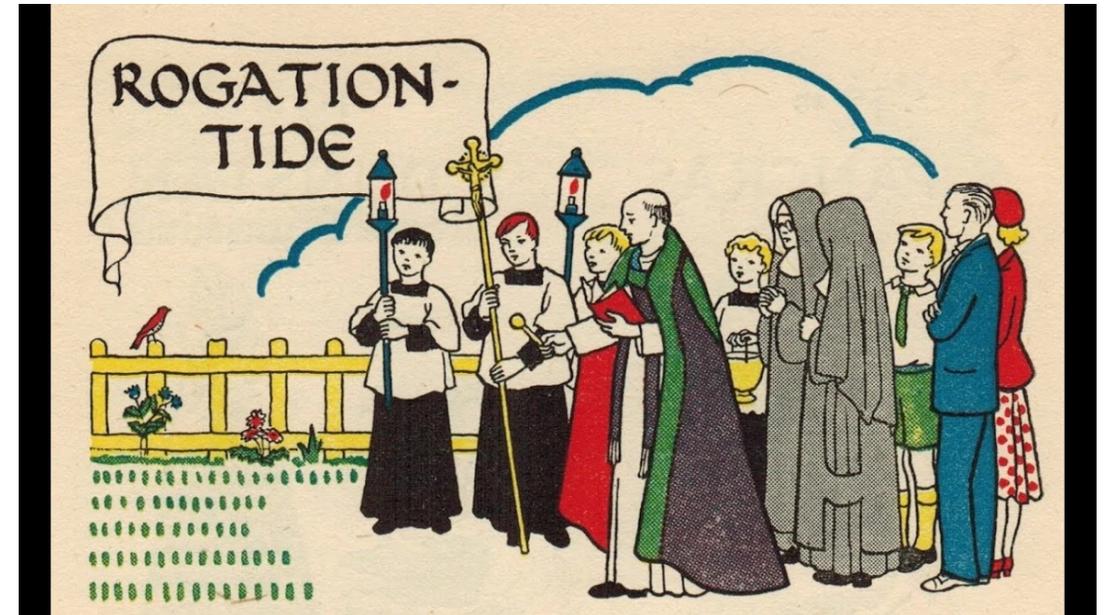
- Fasting and abstinence
- Blessing of crops
- Violet Vestments
- “Beating the bounds”



# Rogation Days

Observation: Britain

- Henry VIII: Processions as a way to assist crop yields
- Edward VI: Nothing!
- Elizabeth I: Public processions again
- Post-Reformation: Inter-parish celebrations
- Thanksgiving for harvests
- Non-violation of agricultural boundaries



# Rogation Days in The Episcopal Church

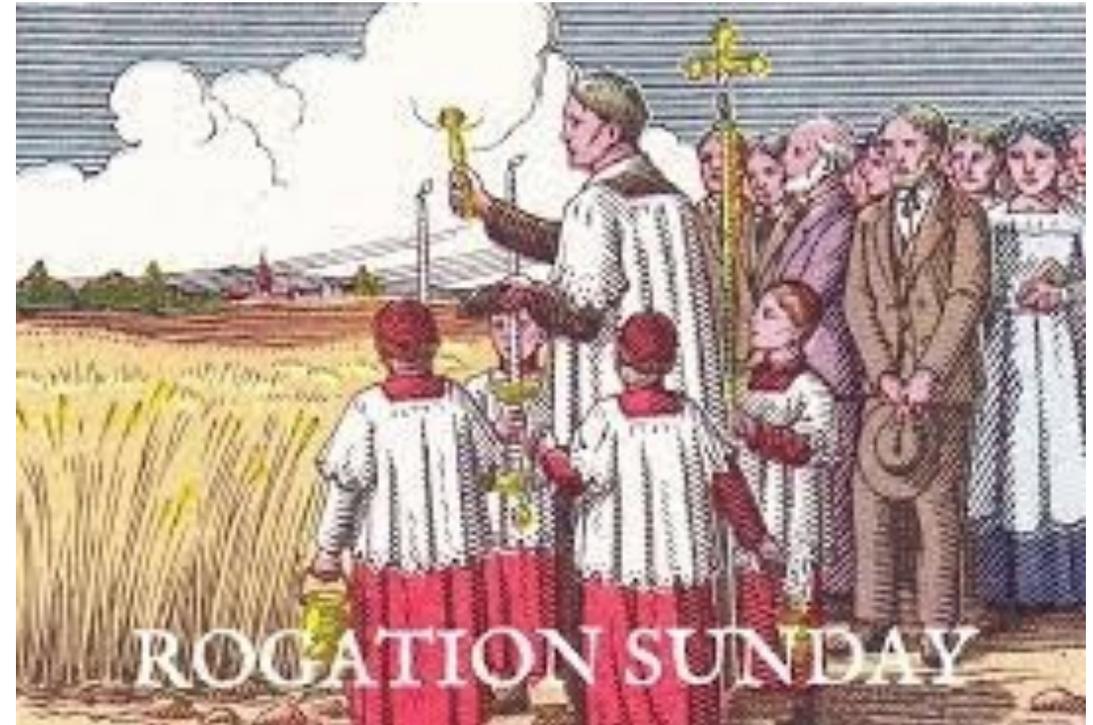


Rogation Sunday: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto, CA - 1949

# Rogation Today

## Episcopal Observances

- Recognized as "Days of Optional Observance" (BCP, 18).
- Scope widened beyond rural life, agriculture and fishing to include commerce and industry and the stewardship of creation.
- Materials for Rogation procession, including lessons and petitions (including for the Prayers of the People) can be found in the *Book of Occasional Offices*



From publicity for a Rogation Sunday  
procession in May of 2023  
Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa, CA



# Rogation Today

“Rite for Blessing of a Garden”  
***Book of Occasional Offices, p. 98***



Questions? Ideas?



# SEASON OF CREATION

September 1, 2024 - October 4, 2024 (St. Francis Day)



# What Is the Season of Creation?

Each year, from September 1 to October 4, Christians throughout the world gather to honor, celebrate and commit ourselves to protecting and restoring our common home. As followers of Christ, we share a common call to care for all living beings—grasses and trees, animals and birds, fish and insects, microbes and bacteria—with whom we share these God-given gifts of water and air, soil and fire. Our well-being is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. Today, we invite you to consider how you and your community might participate in this global observance.

For more information, check out:

[Season of Creation \(Episcopal - 2023\)](#)

[Season of Creation \(Ecumenical - 2023\)](#)



# How Might We Engage?

## Getting Started

1. Find two or three other people to work with. It's easier to come up with ideas and implement them when others are involved. Be sure to keep clergy informed of your interest and plans.
2. Check out the resources available from the [Creation Care Team](#). These resources will be updated once they become available.
3. Assess what's possible in your community. Invite input from others into the early stages of the planning process, which helps to build interest. If this is your first time observing this season, start simple and use at least some of the input you've received.
4. Finalize your plans 4 to 6 weeks ahead, so you have time to let others know what is happening. Be aware of other time commitments, such as the beginning of school and holiday schedules.



# Three Ways to Observe the Season of Creation\*

**Worship and Prayer:** As Anglicans, all we do is rooted in our relationship with God, our Creator. Whether through common prayer in worship or individual spiritual practice, all our decisions to act begin in prayer.

**Formation:** Study, both as individuals and as a community, helps to deepen our understanding and expand our imagination to better see how God is at work in the world around us.

**Action:** As Christians, we are called to act in ways that help to heal what is hurt and restore what is broken, including people, plants, animals, soil, water, and air.

\*The suggestions included here are just a few possibilities. A more comprehensive resource packet for each of these three areas will be emailed to participants and updates will be available on the CCT webpage.

# Worship and Prayer

## For a Community

- Season of Creation liturgical resources are available to help plan Sunday services.
- Include recommended intercessory prayers for the Prayers of the People.
- Plan a Holy Hike or an outdoor service to honor a special place.
- Offer a service for Blessing of the Animals on or around St. Francis Day (October 4).

(Check the [Care of Creation webpage](#) for additional suggestions.)



A woman in a pink jacket and a child in a purple jacket are walking away from the camera on a dirt path in a forest. Sunlight streams through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The woman is holding the child's hand. The child is wearing a backpack.

# Worship and Prayer

## For Individuals

- Spend time outside each day, perhaps with a brief morning and evening walk.
- Visit a park or open space area and take time to listen and watch to see who and what are there.
- Read poems or essays related to the natural world.
- Keep a journal of what you notice outside, including what gives you joy and what makes you sad.

(Check the [Care of Creation webpage](#) for additional suggestions.)



# Formation

## For Communities and Individuals

- Read a book and discuss it with others.
- Watch a movie or video and talk about it.
- Plan intergenerational activities for both adults and young people.
- Learn about the ways you can reduce your impact on the environment.
- Find out who else in your community shares your concern about caring for creation.

(Check the [Care of Creation webpage](#) for additional suggestions.)



# Action

- Plant a garden.
- Organize or participate in a clean-up project in your community.
- Hold a public movie night.
- Participate in a “Leave No Trace” training for how to be a good steward outdoors.
- Explore how your church can reduce its energy use and water consumption.
- Sponsor a public forum to hear from candidates about their views on the particular issues that impact care of creation in your city or town.

(Check the [Care of Creation webpage](#) for additional suggestions.)



# Celebration

*Above all, the church community needs to celebrate the gift of God's creation to us. Here's another opportunity to open our doors to our neighbors.*

- A community meal
- A rogation procession through the neighborhood
- A harvest festival
- Blessing of the Animals outdoors, at a time other than Sunday worship.

(Check the [Care of Creation webpage](#) for additional suggestions.)

A photograph of wooden blocks spelling out 'THANK YOU' in a bold, sans-serif font. The blocks are arranged on a wooden plank, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow bokeh.

How do you feel called to care for creation this year?

Your Care of Creation team and its website will offer you ideas and resources throughout 2024.

Website: <https://episcopalcolorado.org/honoring-and-protecting-creation/>

Reach out at any time:

[The Rev. Gary Brower](#), Rector, Good Shepherd, Centennial

[The Rev. Linda Brown](#), Deacon for Care of Creation, Cathedral Ridge

[The Rev. Rebecca Brown](#), Retired priest

[Sue Carter](#), Parishioner, Holy Comforter, Broomfield

[The Rev. Alena Lamirato](#), Pastor, Peace in Christ Episcopal-Lutheran Ministry, Elizabeth

[Tracy Methe](#), Office of the Bishop

[Carl Peterson](#), Parishioner, All Saints, Loveland