

## Annual World Day

# for the Care of Creation



### Words of Welcome

We suggest a symbolic opening to the prayer service, the choice of elements from the four corners of the Earth. Four individuals, each carrying one of the four elements which are (light (fire), air, water and earth), emerge from the East, South, West and North will lay on a table or an altar the four non-living elements which are the essence of all life on Earth.

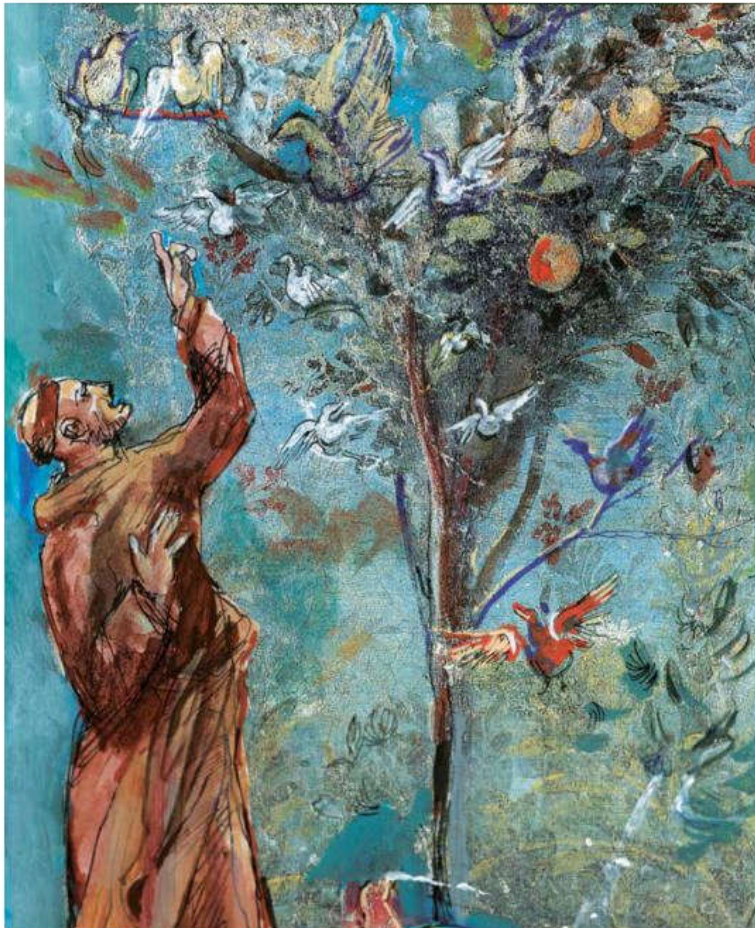
Here are the four non-living elements that foster birth, growth, life-span and reproduction of all living organisms on our planet. Let us appreciate our good fortune to live in a bio-diverse environment which never ceases to amaze us by its stunning beauty and complexity. «From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living forms, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.» (*Laudato Si*, excerpt of # 85)

### Opening Hymn or Song

All creatures of our God and King, from Lift up your hearts: psalms, hymns and spiritual songs 551, *My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)* hymnary.org or the song *Brother Sun Sister Moon* by Donovan.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Isaiah 41, 17-20*

When the poor and needy seek water,  
and there is none,  
and their tongue is parched with thirst,  
I the Lord will answer them,  
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
I will open rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water.  
I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia,  
the myrtle, and the olive;



**Illustration**  
Dario Fo,  
*Lu santo  
jullare predica  
agli uccelli  
(The Holy  
Jester  
Preachs  
to the Birds),  
mixed media*

The Franciscan Mission Office invites you to take part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation with the following suggested celebration. The template can be revised, improved and changed by you as necessary. This document can be downloaded and printed if need be.

The theme we propose this year is the sense of wonder. Nature manifests itself in countless forms and diversity. We could ask ourselves the following question regarding nature: Why do we cease to be moved when we admire it?

Whatever their spiritual or religious persuasion, it goes without saying that everyone can participate in this prayer initiative. It is meant to be a moment of interreligious and oecumenical happening. So let us join our hearts and voices in care for the Earth's wonders which are also a part of us all!

We would love to have your feedback following the initiative you undertake in your community. How helpful was this document to you? What were the highlights of your prayer service?