



# Liturgy and Care for Creation

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Washington, DC

# Holy Trinity Catholic Church

- ▶ Founded in 1787, Holy Trinity is a Roman Catholic parish sponsored by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) located in Washington, DC.
- ▶ The mission of the parish is to help parishioners live the Gospel of Jesus through Sacramental celebrations, collaborate in ministry, practice the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola, and serve in solidarity with people living on the margins.
- ▶ A “Destination Parish”
  - 5,500 families from 76 different zip codes in the DC, MD and VA area.
  - Mostly homogenous racial and economic makeup with many professional links to government, law, and lobbyists.
  - Some connection to the Jesuit tradition - high school, college, etc.



# Holy Trinity Catholic Church

- ▶ **Liturgy & Sacramental Celebrations**
  - 2500 weekly at Sunday Eucharist
- ▶ **Ignatian Spirituality and Prayer**
  - Retreats in Daily Life, Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Exercises
- ▶ **Social Justice**
  - Homelessness
  - Refugees and Migration
  - Care for Creation
  - Sister Parishes in El Salvador & Haiti
  - Social Justice Tithe



# Laudato Si' Redux

- ▶ Encyclical Letter - 24 May 2015
- ▶ Written in line with the trajectory of Catholic Social Teaching
- ▶ Major themes
  - Ecosystems, Relationships, Communion in Creation
  - Profit and Progress at the detriment to the Environment and the Poor
- ▶ Part VI - Ecological Education and Spirituality
  - Conversion from self-absorption to common good
  - Ecological citizenship - favoring the transcendent over utility, freedom from consumption, a return to simplicity, care for what we hold in common
  - Nature incorporated in Sacramental Signs disclose Divine Life
  - Creation bears the image of the Trinity by interconnectivity



# Liturgy

How do liturgical celebrations engage integral ecology?

- Sacramental Celebrations
  - Natural symbols in worship
  - Words - Scripture, Prayer Texts, Music Texts, Preaching
  - Special Days - Earth Day (April 22), World Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1), Memorial of St Francis of Assisi (October 4), Rogation Days
  - Challenge for Mission
- Ecological Education
  - Parishioner formation for Mission
  - Service and Justice Opportunities



# Liturgy

Natural Symbols



Praise of God  
Sacramental Celebrations



Human Work

Sanctification/Mission

Nature  
Everyday Life



# Liturgy

## Prayer Texts

*Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. (Preparation of Gifts)*

*For you laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed [humanity] in your own image and set [us] over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and forever praise you in your mighty works. (Preface V of OT - Genesis 1; Daniel 2)*

## Music Texts

- All Creatures of Our God and King - Laudato Si' and Francis of Assisi
- As the Waters Rise Around Us - Hurricane Harvey
- When I Gaze on Creation - challenge of text



# Liturgy

## Preaching

- Mark Horak, SJ - 21 June 2015  
<http://homilies.trinity.org/e/mark-horak-sj-12th-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>
- Brian McDermott, SJ - 6 September 2015  
<http://homilies.trinity.org/e/brian-mcdermott-sj-23rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>
- Msgr. Kevin Irwin - 28 February 2016  
<http://homilies.trinity.org/e/kevin-irwin-3rd-sunday-of-lent/>

Available at [www.trinity.org/laudatosi](http://www.trinity.org/laudatosi)



# Events Building on Liturgy

- ▶ *ClimateSMART*: Honoring our Children's Future Through Faith, Art and Action.
- ▶ *JustMatters* Climate Change prayer and reading group.
- ▶ Interfaith Power and Light: Conversations about individual action to care for creation.
- ▶ Green Power contract, composting, and Earth Day clean-ups
- ▶ People's Climate Lobby, Science March, Petition for Paris Accords



# An Ecological Examen



JESUITS



1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made.
2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering.
3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable.
4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation.
5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions.
6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.



# Laudato Si'

“The created things of this world are not free of ownership: ‘For they are yours, O Lord, who love the living’ (Wis 11:26). This is the basis of our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. Here I would reiterate that ‘God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement.’”

(Laudato Si', 89)



# A Prayer for the Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love, and peace.



# Questions?

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