

Seasons of Creation

Guidance from The Episcopal Diocese of Texas *Diocesan Liturgical Commission*

Around The Episcopal Church, there are liturgical resources designed to observe a Season of Creation, generally during the fall, which include different lectionary readings than those in the Revised Common Lectionary.

The catholicity of our wider Church is enhanced when reading and preaching and acting upon on the same scripture readings each Sunday, which is diminished when suspending the lectionary for a season. To interrupt the Revised Common Lectionary readings, for an entire season, negatively impacts the catholic and ecumenical nature of the Church, and it places those churches who utilize these resources “out of sync” with Anglicans and other liturgical Christians who utilize the lectionary.

Creation care is in concert with a good theology and practice of stewardship, with a Franciscan emphasis.

These creation care resources can help us grow in our understandings of the Incarnation, as well as gain a more balanced view of the persons of the Trinity.

In these resources, there are good liturgical offerings, especially a creative translation of the Lord’s Prayer, beneficial blessings and closing prayers, and a Prayer for the Harvest.

Some of these resources may be appropriate to use for Earth Day observances.

“Climate” can be a loaded word that can easily become political and partisan.

All other seasons of the liturgical year are framed within the arc of the Gospel narrative. Therefore, there should be a hesitancy to assign a season to an issue, such as creation care, when there are other issues that could also receive worthy attention, such as care for the poor.

There are also good resources about Creation Care from the Church of Wales.

For further inquiry, please consult with Bishop Fisher, chair of the diocesan Liturgical Commission.