

# The Season of Creation 2024

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The “Celebration” begins 1 September, the Feast of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.



## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19–25)

This year the theme “Hope and act with Creation” and the symbol “The firstfruits of hope”, inspired by Romans 8:19–25, will be our guiding inspiration.

The biblical image depicts the Earth as a mother groaning as if giving birth (Rom 8:22). St. Francis of Assisi understood it this way when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his *Canticle of the Creatures*. The times we live in demonstrate that we do not relate to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but as a resource to be used.

“Creation groans” (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and unsustainable actions that harm it. Together with our Sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions that cause climate crises, biodiversity loss and human suffering, as well as Creation’s suffering.

However, Creation teaches us that hope is present in waiting, in the expectation of a better future (cf. Rom 8:20–21). To hope in the biblical context does not mean to remain still and silent, but to groan, to cry out

and actively strive for a new life in the midst of difficulties. Creation and all of us are called to worship the Creator, working together for a dynamic future based on hope and action.

Only when we work together with Creation can the first-fruits of hope spring forth. As in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life emerges.