

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community + Spirit of Christ Mission

Summertime Bulletin Insert #9 August 16, 2020



ON CARE FOR OUR  
COMMON HOME

LAUDATO SI'

“Praise be to you, my Lord.”

This series of bulletin inserts will focus on the SUNDAY SCRIPTURES in light of LAUDATO SI'

During the centuries before Christ, the prophets and leaders of Israel viewed foreign peoples from a number of perspectives. For example, in order to keep the Israelite nation a “holy race,” Ezra ordered all the Israelite men to divorce their foreign wives and marry only Jewish wives (see chapters nine and ten of the Book of Ezra). This raised the question of where other nations fit in God’s plan of salvation.

By contrast, in the passages that unfold in Isaiah chapters 56 to 66, the prophet envisions God’s call to all nations to come to God’s holy mountain to worship, and God is pleased with their offerings. These chapters stress the universality of God’s justice, that is to say, of the order that God intends for the world. While Israel has a special place in that order because it has been called to be a people guided by justice, that does not exclude other nations from God’s love and concern.

The early Church struggled with the place of Gentiles in the new order established by Christ. Did they have to accept circumcision and Jewish dietary laws, in effect becoming a sect within Judaism? Or could they come to Christ *as Gentiles*?

In the end, the early Church was guided by its appreciation of the universality of God’s call, a universality that embraced all nations. Its understanding of the universality of God’s call is rooted in the ministry of Jesus himself. Today’s gospel is one of several incidents in which Jesus recognized great faith in non- Jewish people, in this case a despised Canaanite woman.

In our own time, we are also reminded that all creation plays a role in God’s order of salvation. While human beings have a unique place in God’s plan, the universality of God embraces all creatures, and each gives glory to God in a way appropriate to it.

These scripture readings are pertinent to contemporary life. In a world roiled by a pandemic and racial and political strife they are strong reminders of God’s love and desire for justice for all people regardless of race or ethnicity and the need to care for the creation given us by God.

## Passages from Laudato Si' to note:

The basic problem goes even deeper: it is the way that humanity has taken up technology and its development according to an undifferentiated and one-dimensional paradigm.... This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth.... It is the false notion that an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed. (#106)

The technocratic paradigm also tends to dominate economic and political life. The economy accepts every advance in technology with a view to profit, without concern for its potentially negative impact on human beings.... Yet by itself the market cannot guarantee integral human development and social inclusion. (#109)

There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational program, a lifestyle and a spirituality, which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm. (#111)



This resource is provided by the Integral Faith Team in collaboration with the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), the [Association of U.S. Catholic Priests](#), and the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [blessedtrinitymissoula.org](http://blessedtrinitymissoula.org) (Click on the LAUDATO Si page). The complete text of the encyclical is available there, as well as other information and videos.**

**Also available on the [Laudato Si page](#) >>>**

**THE COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED:  
Caring for Creation and the Common Good.**

