



To the People of the Diocese of New Westminster

I write to highly commend to you this resource that has been created to help all of us engage more fully with the Season of Creation, which spans September 1 to October 4 of this year. You will also find more resources for the Sundays and different ways of exploring how to live more intently in the Season of Creation.

At our Synod last May, our diocese affirmed that we desire to put in place a number of actions related to the Climate Emergency. There is a need to bring urgency to how we seek to heal and protect our planet. There is a need to not simply affirm the need to change how we walk on this earth but to engage more fully in the changes we need to make. There is a need to learn more about the science of climate change and the build up of greenhouse gases and where our faith is calling us to seek God's guidance for us to be protectors and carers of all places, peoples and life in this world. *The Season of Creation* is an opportunity to grow our relationship with Earth, so that all the effort we put into this work is grounded in respect, reciprocity, and renewal.

In the baptismal covenant from the *Book of Alternative Services*, we are asked, "Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?" The hope filled response is, "I will, with God's help." Those are the words we aim to guide us and lead us in this Season of Creation.

In the list of resources available for the Season of Creation, you will see the Eucharistic Prayer linked to Salal and Cedar. Please know that I give my permission for this to be used in this Season of Creation and going forward in the diocese.

May God guide all of us as we discern where God's Holy Spirit is leading us and inviting us.

BLESSINGS & PEACE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of a bishop or high-ranking clergy member, with a cross symbol above the first letter.