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CHURCH UNITY COMMISSION

'that they may be one as we are one – so that they may be brought to complete unity.' (John 17:22-23)

12 August 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

SAVE THE DATE & INVITATION TO ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF CREATION – 1 SEPTEMBER 11:00AM

We would like to invite you to join the Ecumenical family in celebrating the Season of Creation. The Season runs from the 1st of September (World day of prayer for creation), until the 4th of October (St Francis Day). The Season of Creation was first started in 1989 by Ecumenical patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church. Since then it has grown, being embraced by the World Council of Churches, the Anglican Communion, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Lutheran World Federation and many others.

We have seasons in our liturgical calendar dedicated to God the Son (Easter and Christmas), and God the Spirit (Pentecost), but until now we have not had a Season where we celebrate God the Creator. It is a time to celebrate the wonders of the gift of Creation given into our care, but it is also a time to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

The theme for this year's international Season of Creation is "Oikos - a home for all". Oikos is a Greek word meaning 'house' or 'home'. COVID-19 has taught us that we are all interconnected, we share one common home. And our common home is under threat. The web of life is unravelling. In one generation, the population size of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles has dropped by two thirds. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish. Climate Change is pushing millions into poverty. There is no Planet B. This year is of vital importance in prayer as the nations of the world gather at COP26 to renew and increase their national commitments to fighting climate change. Decisions made there will impact on what kind of world we leave for our children. This Season of Creation explores with churches around the world the meaning of the word 'oikos' - our home. It is a word with great significance because oikos is the root word for three important terms: Economy, Ecology and Ecumenical. This points us to the interconnections between God's creation, economic justice and the role of the Church community.

Please explore the global Ecumenical Season of Creation resource on www.seasonofcreation.org for resources and many ideas of how to get involved!

You can also find resources from the Anglican Church at <https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/manual-2021-final.pdf>

Here are some materials you can use for Sunday School during the Season of Creation.

<https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Ryan-the-rhino-colour-final-Colour.pdf>

We will be launching the Season of Creation on 1st of September 2021 and would invite you to join us virtually via Facebook. The Theme for the day is "Justice: Economy and Climate Change" and would like to invite you to join us virtually live on Facebook - UPCSA, UCCSA & MCSA Facebook pages

Officials: Chair Rt Rev Charles May – Vice Chair Revs: Kim Brown, Heidi Petersen – Secretary General Rev KM Makubalo
Member Churches: Uniting Presbyterian Church SA – United Congregational Church SA – Evangelical Presbyterian Church SA – Anglican Church SA – Methodist Church SA – Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk SA
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