

PRAYER AND MEDITATION GUIDE
A ROSARY WALK
FOR CREATION CARE
PART 1: THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES



This Rosary Walk was adapted with permission from, **Rosary Meditations and Care for Creation: Petitions and Supplications for Mother Earth* by Mary Jane Miller, available from <https://www.millericons.com> with considerations from these materials:
**Laudato Si’ Lent: The Laudato Si’ Rosary*, by the Laudato Si’ Movement
**Rosary of Creation* by the Sisters of Mercy
**Guided Rosary on Caring for Creation* by the Franciscan Action Network



A Rosary Walk for Creation Care: Prayer and Meditation Guide

Part 1: The Joyful Mysteries

(Leader) Welcome to our *Rosary Walk* for Care for Creation!

Introduction:

As we prepared for this *Rosary Walk*, we discovered that we timed the day for this *Rosary Walk* for October 5th, rather perfectly. Not only is this our way to close the September *Season of Creation* and remember October 4th, the feast day of *St. Francis of Assisi*, but it is also just before Oct. 7th the feast day for *Mary Queen of the Rosary* – she who guides us in prayer! So today we celebrate Mary and usher in October, the *Month of the Rosary*!

But why are we praying to Mary for Creation?:

Our Rosary today is adapted from *Meditations and Care for Creation: Petitions and Supplications for Mother Earth* by Mary Jane Miller. She writes, “The Rosary has been a principle prayer form used for the sick, those in need, and those in peril. Today, our Earth is sick, and she is in peril and needs our prayers.” Further Ms. Miller notes, “On May 13, 2021, Pope Francis encouraged Christians around the world to pray the Rosary. He said, ‘The Blessed Mother’s intercession on behalf of Mother Earth can bring humanity to realize more deeply the love that God has bestowed on Earth for our benefit.’ “

Let’s ground ourselves:

We will begin with a land acknowledgement. Our feet will walk on this land, located in the watersheds of Beaver Brook, the Merrimack River, and the Gulf of Maine, ancestral home of the Abenaki People and the ancestors who came before us. Now take a moment to look around you and immerse yourself in God’s presence as seen through his handiwork - the sky, the trees, the sounds or evidence of birds and animals, the water nearby in Beaver Brook, the soil beneath our feet, and even the built structures - all of which ultimately came from our Earth’s resources. Take a breath in and send gratitude for all of Creation - God’s great gift of love.

Transformation:

Let us become **Pilgrims** on this *Rosary Walk* by calling on *Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary*, for her blessing.

Blessing by Christine Valters Paintner

Blessed Mary, you gifted us with the Rosary,



a sacred wheel of prayer.
Guide us as we touch each bead
and offer what is in our hearts to you.
Let our words draw us into deeper intimacy
with you so we come to know you
as a compassionate and wise guide.
As we pray with the Mysteries
of your life and touch
your joy, your luminosity, your sorrow, your glory,
help us to know our own
deep joys and sorrows
as the very place where grace
enters into our lives,
bringing all that feels broken together
into a mosaic of wholeness,
like the circle we pray with.
Whisper into our ears your words
of comfort and guidance,
as we deepen into prayer.

Today we are pilgrims journeying through the Joyful Mysteries.

Let us offer this Rosary for our own intentions and for all those impacted, both human and non-human, by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee.

(ALL) We will begin with the sign of the cross ...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(All) The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

(All) The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Hail Mary (3x)

(Reader) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

(All) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(All) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



(Leader) The First Joyful Mystery

The Annunciation: *Mary learns she has been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus.*

(Reader) Grant us the grace to measure the depth of stillness Mary felt in the quiet moment when she said Yes To God. Grant us the grace to say Yes with Christ, to love and respect God's glorious creation. May our Yes prompt us to follow God's laws and the teachings of love that made all life possible. For love we have been made and to love we shall return.

(Reader) Help us discern and understand God's plan for life and revere the natural world in all its abundance. Pray that we joyfully recognize with fresh eyes, through inspired hearts, all of Creation that has been bestowed upon us.

(Reader) Each of us have been divinely selected and nurtured by those who have come before us. May our worries about our common home be replaced by hope and wisdom as we joyfully work to care for Creation for future generations.

(All) *Mother Mary who by your human act, gave birth to the most transcendent truth, which is love.*

(Leader) Let us meditate on the Mystery as we pray ...

(All) The Our Father

The Hail Mary (10 x)

(Reader) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

(All) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(All) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(All) Fatima Prayers

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

(Leader) As we walk to our next station, imagine that Mary is walking with you. What might you both see that delights you, troubles you, or is something that you had never noticed before?)



(Leader) The Second Joyful Mystery

The Visitation: *Mary visits Elizabeth who tells her that she will always be remembered.*

(Reader) Help us Mary. Grant us the grace to willingly share our time, resources, and energy with families, neighbors, and all people of good will. Help each of us to celebrate with Elizabeth the knowledge that all of life is a sacred mystery.

(Reader) We rejoice with Mary and cherish every living creature on earth down to the smallest microorganisms. Guide us in being mindful of the diversity and value of life around the globe. Let us not be a hindrance to others and allow other creatures to flourish. Help us to experience the awe and wonder of creation. Help us to hear Creation's song.

(Reader) Holy Mother, we renew our desire to comfort the afflicted, strengthen what has become weak, and protect all that is born into the interconnected web of all life on Earth. Help us hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

(All) *Mother Mary who by your human act gave birth to the most transcendent truth which is love.*

(Leader) Let us meditate on the Mystery as we pray ...

(All) The Our Father

The Hail Mary (10 x)

(Reader) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

(All) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(All) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(All) Fatima Prayers

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

(Leader) We will be walking to the next station. Again, Mary is walking with you. Take a moment along the way to look very closely at a leaf, bark, a flower, or a seed and describe for her a detail that you saw.



(Leader) The Third Joyful Mystery
The Nativity: *Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem.*

(Reader) Mary has birthed the light of God and divine wisdom incarnate. Mother Mary, grant us the grace to birth Christ-likeness in the world. We have been born of one mind, regardless of circumstance. Encourage us to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi who rejoiced with true tenderness the breath of all new life.

(Reader) Mother, make us humble with Jesus who shared his birthplace with that of the animals. Guide us to joyfully protect all life, as St. Francis did, and help us realize our intimate kinship with all species on the Earth.

(Reader) Help us to follow the message of St. Francis of Assisi to understand that are not separate from the natural world – a world where we and all creatures of the earth are fully part of God’s family of creation ... God’s great gift of love.

(All) *Mother Mary who by your human act, gave birth to the most transcendent truth which is love.*

(Leader) Let us meditate on the Mystery as we pray ...

(All) The Our Father

The Hail Mary (10 x)

(Reader) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

(All) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(All) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(All) Fatima Prayers

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

(Leader) Mary is walking with you. What acts of kindness towards Creation might you talk about with her?



(Leader) The Fourth Joyful Mystery

The Presentation: *Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to the temple to present Him to God.*

(Reader) Help us, Mary, to make an offering of our lives in gratitude and service, as you and Joseph gave for the wellbeing of Jesus. May we hope that in doing so our souls will grow to want to know how to protect all life and the world's abundant resources. Pray for us to live our lives innocently and more simply before God.

(Reader) Give us the strength and wisdom to teach our children the magnificence of creation. Our lives are vulnerable, yet we are made strong through the blessings of God our Maker.

(Reader) Grant us the grace to listen to and heed the words of those who speak of faith in the future. Teach us to embrace scientific reason and spiritual wisdom so splendidly illustrated in what it is to be born.

(All) *Mother Mary who by your human act, gave birth to the most transcendent truth which is love.*

(Leader) Let us meditate on the Mystery as we pray ...

(All) The Our Father

The Hail Mary (10 x)

(Reader) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

(All) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(All) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(All) Fatima Prayers

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

(Leader) We will now walk to our next station. Mary is still walking with you. What are you hearing Mary share with you?



(Leader) The Fifth Joyful Mystery

Finding Jesus in the Temple: *Jesus is found in the temple discussing His faith with the teachers and elders.*

(Reader) Grant us the grace to seek, to find, to listen, and to understand His truth. Help us, pray that the words of Jesus are on our lips as we go about our day, opening discussion about love for our planet. Pope Francis reminds us that ... “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience”. LSi’ 217. Help us find our prophetic voice.

(Reader) The Lord teaches us to care for our sisters and brothers, encouraging them to be stewards of the earth’s magnificent splendor. Help us discern truth in all that nature reveals. Let our leaders embrace a new-found joy in preserving the interrelated resources and ecosystems for our benefit, for the benefit of future generations and for the benefit of all of Creation.

(Reader) Help us live as a united family with a common interest in global peace. In doing so, we may live in harmony with God, our neighbors and all of creation.

(All) Mother Mary who by your human act, gave birth to the most transcendent truth which is love.

(Leader) Let us meditate on the Mystery as we pray ...

(All) The Our Father

The Hail Mary (10 x)

(Reader) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

(All) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(All) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(All) Fatima Prayers

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

(Leader) If you shared a thank you note to the Blessed Mother for walking with you today, what might it say?

Ending Prayer

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen



