



## March 2020

### *“Hope for the World”*

#### Adapted for RCCDSB Schools

#### **SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS**

- *Canticle of the Sun* ~ Marty Haugen (CBW III #542)
- *Morning has Broken* (CBW III #651)
- *Behold a Broken World We Pray* (CBW III #538)
- *They'll Know We are Christians* ~ Peter Scholtes (Gather #735)

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And let us pray...

God of the universe,

We praise and bless you.

Give us wisdom and courage to be messengers of hope to our world.

Teach us how to be people of prayer and bring us together as disciples who believe that love is stronger than death.

May we continue to dream that one day, our entire world will rejoice in hope.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Source of our hope and Light of the world.

Amen. +

#### **READING: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing, for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay, and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.

The Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

#### **Optional: QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION**

What signs do we see that creation is subject to futility?

Where do you find signs of Christ's saving hope that inspire people to care for the gift of creation?

## **READING AND GUIDED REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

*In the homily at his papal inauguration, Pope Francis said,*

*"In Paul's letter to the Romans, St. Paul speaks of Abraham, who, 'hoping against hope, believed.' Hoping against hope! Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! For believers, for us Christians, like Abraham, like St. Joseph, the hope that we bring is set against the horizon of God, which has opened up before us in Christ. It is a hope built on the rock which is God."*

Pope Francis, Inaugural Mass, 2013

## **OPTIONAL: QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

This Mass took place on the feast of St. Joseph, and Pope Francis talked about St. Joseph as a protector, not only of Mary and Joseph, but of the whole Church. How are we called to protect one another through our protection of creation?

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation 7i notes that graduates of our Catholic schools are expected to be *responsible citizens* who *respect the environment and use resources wisely*.

Where do we find evidence of this OCSGE demonstrated in our Catholic schools today?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus,

Help us to be living signs of Your joyful hope for the world.

Help us to reach beyond our comfortable boundaries to those who long for Your love and justice.

In times of despair and doubt, bring us back to the Gospel.

Let us be marked with integrity in our vocation to be protectors of one another through our protection of Your world.

May we speak for our beautiful but wounded planet for the good of one another, as caring family members, responsible citizens, and stewards of creation.

We make this prayer in Your name: You who reign forever with the Father our Creator, and Your sustaining Spirit.

Amen. +

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS**

- *God Created Earth and Heaven* (CBW III #512)
- *Go Make a Difference* ~ (Gather Comprehensive #664 / Spirit & Song #213)
- *Christ be Our Light* ~ Bernadette Farrell (Gather Hymnal #590)
- *Spirit Blowing Through Creation* (CBW III #415)
- *Stewards of the Earth* ~ (CBW III #634)