



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship Prayer Service

## **Garden of Creation**

### **Let us Pray:**

Lord,

You are the sower and reaper, the planter and harvester. We are eager to cultivate the gifts in the fertile soil of hearts open to You.

### **Reading from Scripture:**

"God blessed them, saying: 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.' God also said, 'See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed bearing fruit on it to be your food.'"

*Genesis 1: 28-29*

### **Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?**

All creation is a gift from God, and we are all called to revere and respect this gift. The Church teaches that misusing God's creation betrays the gifts He has given to us for the good of all humanity. How do I revere and respect God's gift of creation? Do I keep myself informed about environmental issues? Do I allow concern for the world to influence my purchasing decisions? Do I reuse and recycle the items that I use? What simple steps could I take to reduce the impact I have on the environment? Buying reusable grocery bags? Lowering my thermostat a little? Paying a little more for a recycled product? Have I considered supporting organizations that protect land, wildlife, and the overall environment?

### **Closing:**

Lord,

The seed that fell on rich ground yielded a harvest of thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. May the seeds that You have planted in our hearts, in all the gardens where we are called to be good stewards, produce a rich harvest for building up Your Kingdom. Amen.



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Reflections

*Thoughts on each of the Twelve Gardens within the Four Pillars of Stewardship:  
Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service*

### **Garden of Creation**

*"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth his handiwork."  
Psalm 19:1*

When you consider the world and the good God who created it for us, do you see yourself as a loving caretaker of our environment? What are some things you can do to help ensure that God's creation remains unharmed?

#### **Prayer**

Reflect on a time when you saw a beautiful vista, sunrise or sunset, or gazed into a starry night sky. How did you feel about the awesome and mighty God that created such beauty? Have you ever felt drawn nearer to God when pondering His creation?

#### **Formation**

Think of articles and news reports you've read concerning our planet and resources. What have you learned about environmental protection? How can you educate yourself further regarding the care of our world, which is a gift from God? What can you do to help inform others about the dangers that face our world and the steps we can take to protect it?

#### **Hospitality**

Could your God-given talents be used to inspire others to not waste resources? What can you do to make it easier for others to conserve? What are some ways you could work with others to help protect the environment?

#### **Service**

Consider the environment and the unique gifts and talents God has given you. In what ways are you able to support organizations that protect the environment? In what ways can you 'reduce, reuse, or recycle?' In what ways can you help the world be the place God created it to be?