



# Grace Creation Care

December, 2023

Advent – Winter Solstice - Christmas

## Loving Formation

### Winter Trees

All the complicated details  
of the attiring and  
the disattiring are completed!



A liquid moon  
moves gently among  
the long branches.  
Thus having prepared  
their buds  
against a sure winter  
the wise trees  
stand sleeping in the cold.

## Life-giving Conservation

### We Thank You, Creator God

We thank you, creator God,  
for the goodly heritage you offer us,  
from green downland  
to the deep salt seas,  
and for the abundant world  
we share with your creation.  
Keep us so mindful of its needs  
and those of all with whom we share,  
that open to your Spirit  
we may discern and practice  
all that makes for its wellbeing,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

- Rev. Peter Lippiett

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/sustainability-prayers>



## Liberating Advocacy

“Archeologists seem surprised when they discover ancient Native American observatories and markers showing how our ancestors kept calendars. Our Indigenous ancestors kept track of the seasons by placing stones and structures in a way that created exact alignments with the sun for winter and summer solstices and other important times of the year.... When a civilization lives close to nature, it must be ready for anything in order to ensure its survival. Also, when our lives are built around growing, gathering, and hunting food in the correct seasons, we need to mark the seasons.... They knew how to pay attention to what nature is telling us.”

What grand season are we experiencing as a civilization? How can you plan to respond to what nature is telling you?

In *Becoming Rooted* by Randy Woodley, pgs. 227-228.

**Loving Creation** – Winter is a great time to do some playful things outside even though it is snowy and cold in our area! Try some of these!

- Make a snow angel/snow man
- Drink a hot cup of cocoa – outside
- Take a walk and look for animal tracks in the snow
- Go ice skating
- Take photos of trees with bare branches!