

Canopy of Prayer

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Dear Prayer Partners in Europe Creation worships its Creator:

Creation worships the Creator as David sings in Psalm 19: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. The sun is rising from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat..."

And as people sing John Glynn's song: "I watch the sunrise, Lighting the sky. Casting its shadows near

And on this morning, Bright though it be. I feel those shadows near me. But you are always close to me..."

And Jeremy Riddle: "I see Your face in every sunrise. The colours of the morning are inside Your eyes. The world awakens in the light of the day. I look up to the sky and say You're beautiful..."

These are all beautiful words to give glory to God, as well as many other songs.

No lockdown for creation

Around Easter, when the Lockdown was still so severe in most countries that two pigeons were building their nest in front of my window, the famous 'Keukenhof' in the Netherlands was full with flowers in all kind of colours, but no one was allowed to visit. Covid-19 doesn't affect the creation negatively, it's the opposite; even in the biggest cities people hear the birds singing with great joy. In 'normal' life we often took creation for granted, but in the past few months it became our refuge, at least for those who were/are allowed to go out.

Order, beauty and abundance

Skye Jethani writes in his book Futureville "The first garden was marked by three characteristics: order, beauty and abundance". And even if we cannot live in paradise anymore, I still see this in creation. It's a reflection of who God is!

Even for the millions who live without knowing the Creator God, often creation is a reason to worship, especially the sun, which gives light, warmth and growth. This is not only a custom of the past or from countries like India. Nowadays within Europe (and beyond) it is very common to worship the sun, especially on June 20/21, when we have the longest daylight. There are plenty of spiritual guides around to show you how to celebrate that moment.

Creation above Creator

Why is it that people so easily worship creation above the Creator? It reminds me of scientists who have discovered so much of the universe but seldom give glory to its Maker. At least not in the many nature documentaries I have watched.

Could it be that we as a church worship our Creator too much inside our buildings, instead of outside where people can hear? Here at YWAM we have worshipped Him in a Christian meditation garden on the 21st of June for many years. The birds sing aloud with us. This might be

an idea for churches, especially now when many of us are not yet allowed to meet in our buildings, and not allowed to sing! But outside there is space enough. It is still possible in Europe to worship our Creator, while other people can hear us. He who made the sun, the moon, the stars and all creation in a wonderful order, in an unspeakable beauty with such an abundance, He alone is worthy of all our praise.

Or to end with some words of another beautiful worship song by Hillsong United:

"God of creation ... I can see Your heart in everything You've made, every burning star, a signal fire of grace. If creation sings Your praises, so will I."

PRAYER POINTS:

- If possible, go outside and make a worship walk and give God all the glory for what He has made.
- Pray that we as church in Europe will show in our teachings, worship etc. that we are in awe of God our Creator and that we stand up against the stronghold of the generally accepted evolution theory.
- Pray that people will come up with God-honouring and original ideas how to take care of the earth and pray for wisdom for those who have influential positions regarding many issues concerning nature and climate.



Governing by video summit

All legislatures face the challenge of decision making via video conferencing at the moment. None more so than the EU itself, as has been highlighted by this week's conference about the rescue plans for nations heavily affected by COVID 19. The "frugal four" - Sweden, Denmark, Austria and the Netherlands - continue to oppose the grants. Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron back the plan. Diplomats say there will be no compromise until face to face meetings in July.

Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Pray for the socially deprived areas in our cities, where lockdown has had negative consequences, especially for those with learning difficulties.
2. Pray for the Brexit negotiations. The UK has now definitively ruled out any extension to the trade talks timetable. This could lead to no deal being struck before the December 31st deadline with undesirable consequences for both sides

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