

Prayer – 8 September 2025



The 2025 Symbol is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled "*Garden of Peace*," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable.

Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year's Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace.

The white dove with an olive branch is a globally recognized symbol of peace. In the story of Noah, it also signifies new life after destruction. Season of Creation Guide 2025, p.13

Hymn:

Deep Peace, Sara Thomson <https://youtu.be/kb-FAOe396U?si=FethaktCCKblJcUF>

Deep peace of the rolling waves to you. Deep peace of the silent stars.
Deep peace of the blowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth.
Let peace, let peace, let peace fill your soul may peace.
May peace, may peace keep you whole.

Reading:

As sacred Scripture teaches, the earth is the Lord's and all of us dwell in it as 'aliens and tenants' (Leviticus 25:23). If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry." Pope Francis, *Jubilee Year of Hope*, 9 May 2025

How am I/are we tending the Garden of Peace?

Prayer:

Prince of Peace,
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity
with the woundedness of others, of creation, and of the world.
Through your resurrection, make us people of hope—
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares
and tears transformed into joy.
May we come together as one family, to labor for your peace—
a shalom where all your people may dwell in safety, and rest in
quiet places. Season of Creation Guide 2025, p.15

