



(<https://www.google.it/search?q=world+environment+day+2017+poster&client=safari&rls=en&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjcuNeOj5fUAhWE6RQKHRHHAQQQ7AkIRQ&biw=1199&bih=839#imgrc=>)

### 1. World Environment Day (WED):

It is established by UN in 1972. The same year UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was also established. In 1974 the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth". From 1987 different countries host the event. This year Canada hosts the day with the theme *Connecting people to Nature*. WED is an opportunity to realize our responsibility for caring the nature.

### 2. Prayer of invocation:

Lord our God! You have made the nature and the human beings from the mud. We have alienated ourselves from the nature. By this we have destroyed ourselves and the environment. Help us to reconnect ourselves to the nature. Amen.

- Let us watch the Canticle of Sun (English):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGMIjwf0SVw>

### 3. Bible reading and reflection:

**Genesis 2, 4-9:** 'These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up...then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food...'

**Reflection:** Mud is the mother of the nature and the human beings. The world has existed even before man was created. Human was created after the nature; because human can not live without nature. It is because of this reason God advised the human to work and keep the nature (Gen 2,15). God also said that the human 'may rule over all the creatures'(Gen 1,26). The phrase 'let them rule' (in Hebrew *radah*) means compassionately and un selfishly taking care of the creature. God does not allow the nature to be exploited. So He has commanded not to cultivate the land on the seventh year and not to work on the seventh day (Ex 23,10-

11). God has prohibited the cross breeding of animals and plants (Lev 19,19); also prohibited the cutting of fruit trees even at the time of war, 'Fruit trees aren't your enemies, so don't cut them down' (Deut 20,19). Only such an interconnected world was found by God as good. (Gen 1, 18).

World has come from God and he remains connected to world. He walks through garden (Eden) (Genesis 3:8); speaks through fire( Ex 3,2); appears (to Aron and people) through dazzling light( Ex 16,10); he is everywhere in heaven and on earth( Jer 23,24); and he descends like a dove( on Jesus) ( Mt 3,16). Only human has alienated from nature. Today's environmental problems: global warming, increase of greenhouse gases, desertification of land etc., are signs of our disconnectedness and exploitation of nature. Because of this exploitation the creation is groaning in pain (Rom 8, 19-22). Preaching the good news to all creation (Mk 16,15) calls for the restoration of the connection to the earth. It is not enough to preserve this connection. As Jesus teaches in the parable of the Talents, we have to make the nature flourish and multiply (Mt 25,14-30).

***Intercessory prayer:*** We shall pray that:

we recognize our dependence on the nature  
we respect the rights of the environment and the poor  
we cease from exploiting the natural resources  
we use the fruits of the nature sustainably and distribute them justly  
we may live in harmony/peace with one another and nature.

#### **4. How to get connected:**

As a child we realized that legs/hands were connected to us by biting/chewing them. We continue to experience our connectedness to our body and to nature, through our *seven senses*. Let us begin with the senses that are less known to us. There is a sense, called *vestibular* sense. This provides the *sensation of movement and balance of the body*. It is because of the vestibular sense we experience the movement while traveling in train and we maintain the body balance while lying down/sitting/walking. The sense of *Proprioception* provides the *knowledge about the position of the different parts of the body*. It is because of Proprioception, the hand is able to reach the food to mouth (even in darkness) and the teeth, while eating, does not bite the tongue. In the absence of this sense we need hundreds of tongues. Through the senses of *sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch* we are predominantly getting connected to the external world. Through the conscious use of senses we can experience that we are an extension of the nature and God. This experience will create in us urge to conserve and to nourish the nature; also to love the people and God. ***The following are simple means to strengthen our connection:***

- Walk/play in sand/mud bare footed and feel the sand/mud in hand/feet
- Take bath consciously experiencing the touch of the water. If possible bath in swimming pool/pond /river
- Observe the insects on the pavement and below the pavement slabs
- Visit a park/zoo and observe the bio diversity
- Observe the sky by night
- Listen to the sound happening around us
- Eat consciously/silently, experiencing the taste and smell

- Consume food without waste
- Pick up 10 to 100 trashes from neighbourhood
- Green the environment by doing trees planting/ window plant pots/ terrace gardens
- Reduce the use of private vehicle, electricity, water etc.
- Give out the goods that are not in regular use.
- Remain still (meditation) experiencing the body sensations

5. **Concluding prayer:**

Lord our God! The world bears the marks of your fingers and we all share your breath. Increase in us the awareness of this connectedness. Help the people and the Governments to care for the nature and for the poor. Amen

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