



## Caring for Our Common Home

Each year on **Earth Day (April 22)**, people around the world pause to reflect on the beauty of our planet and our shared responsibility to care for it. In the hospital setting, we spend much of our time focused on healing the human body, mind, and spirit. Earth Day reminds us that our well-being is deeply connected to the well-being of the world around us. Clean air, safe water, nourishing food, and peaceful environments all play a role in the health of individuals and communities alike.

Many faith traditions teach that the world is not something we own, but something entrusted to our care. Whether we speak of creation, nature, or our common home, there is a shared understanding that life is a gift, and with that gift comes responsibility. Small acts of stewardship, conserving resources, showing respect for living things, and caring for the spaces we share, become meaningful ways to express gratitude for the life we have been given.

In healthcare, we see every day how precious life is. We witness both its fragility and its resilience. Earth Day invites us to extend that same sense of reverence beyond the walls of the hospital, remembering that caring for the world is also a way of caring for one another, and for future generations.

Pope Francis expressed this idea beautifully in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls all people, regardless of faith tradition, to work together for the good of our planet and all who live on it. The following prayer is offered as a reflection for Earth Day and for all who seek peace, healing, and harmony in our world.

*"All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace." \**

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\* <https://sarh.link/Prayer-for-our-Earth>