**Reflective Remembrance of *Laudato Si’***

Before gathering, each finds a small bit of nature (leaf, vegetable, fruit, plant….) to bring to the service. If desired, someone could prepare this YouTube for use at the end:

[CANTICLE OF THE SUN ~ In thanksgivng for Pope ... - YouTube](https://r.search.aol.com/_ylt=AwrJ61gUauxbEhYA6mFpCWVH;_ylu=X3oDMTByOHZyb21tBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNlYwNzcg--/RV=2/RE=1542249109/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.youtube.com%2fwatch%3fv%3dMShtNLy61uw/RK=0/RS=LWpgmJdVa04kq3vN.CRJuMn9bns-)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MShtNLy61uw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MShtNLy61uw) [3:31]

**Convener:** We can always profit from reflecting on Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’ : On Care for Our Common Home,* originally published June 18, 2015. As we begin, let us each be grateful for Pope Francis, for St. Francis, and for everything that led us to care about creation.

Pause for remembrance and gratitude.

Consider and share about one or more of the following three options:

1. Remember how you felt when you first learned Pope Francis had written this encyclical and how you felt the first time you read it (or parts of it). If you became familiar with it, remember what motivated you to do so. What were your hopes then? How are you feeling about it now?

2. Dedicate at least five minutes to awe, wonder, and contemplation of the specific bit of creation that you brought — remembering that everything is interconnected, interdependent, and part of the love-story between God and each and all of us. Then share 1-1 or in small groups how you feel about that experience and/or that specific item.

3. Choose one of the following quotes (or any favorite quote from the document), reflect on it quietly. Then read your choice to the group and share what it means to you:

“If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers … By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.” (par. 11)

“Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the immediate problems of pollution, environmental decay and the depletion of natural resources. There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational program, a lifestyle and a spirituality which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm.” (par. 111)

“[T]here is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.” (par. 233)

Your choice.

4. Pray together, pausing to fill in where indicated:

We are grateful for the gift of Pope Francis and *Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home*. We are grateful that its message is so in keeping with [….] We ask ongoing blessings for

Pope Francis, for each of us, and for [….] that we may be open to possibilities to further this document with ardor and zeal. We renew our commitment to […..].

5. Sing or listen to Marty Hagen’s “Canticle of the Sun” (“The Heavens Are Telling”) uploaded by Michelle Sherliza, OP.