



**Pray the following slowly.
Pause for a reflective silence
then**

You are invited to share:

- ◆ **What phrase/s in this prayer 'spoke to your spirit'**
- ◆ **How can you welcome the newness of spring into your daily life?**

**You, Springtime Jesus, just as I'd settled down to winter,
you broke into my heart and danced your love right across it
in a mad excess of giving.
just as I'd got comfortable with bare branches and unfeeling.
just as my world was neatly black and white, there you were,
kicking up flows all over the place.**

**Springtime Jesus, I tried to find a way to tell you
that there were places where you could or could not dance.
I wanted to guide you on my paths
and have you sign the visitors' book;
but you laughed right through my words
and sang to me your melting song,
causing sap to fire the branches, causing the flames of buds
to flicker into green bonfires
causing a windquake of blossom, causing burstings,
searings, breakings, causing growth-pain, causing life.**

**Springtime Jesus,
the fullness of life can be frightening
and I'm lacking in courage.
It isn't easy to live with a heart that's wide open to invasion.
Teach me Jesus how to move with you,
step for step, in your love dance.
Touch my fears with your melting song.
Gift me with your laughter, and,
in the mystery of your Springtime,
show me the truth of the blossoming Cross.**

SPRINGTIME JESUS Joy Cowley

Laudato Si

Laudato Si' is the second encyclical of Pope Francis, subtitled "on care for our common home". In it, the Pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible economic development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action."

You might like to pray the prayer written by Pope Francis in the encyclical:

(Laudato Si #246)



A prayer for our earth

**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.

AMEN