**PRAYER FOR THE WINTER SEASON**

**Introduction**

*Leader*

Winter came back this week.

What do you like about winter?

*Leader invites participants to answer with one or two words.*

*Leader*

We thank God for Winter and for all the Seasons.

**Prayer**

*Leader*

Let us pray.

Creator God, please guide us.

Help us act in love and courage

To honor You, O Creator,

And to fulfill our role as protectors of

The Earth, our common home.

We pray through Christ, Our Lord.

*All*

Amen.

Adapted from *Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis

**Winter Teaches Me**

**L WINTER TEACHES ME PATIENCE.**

 *All Repeat Now and at End of Stanza*

*R1* Walk carefully on icy sidewalks.

Drive slower through snarled traffic.

Take more time to put on layers of clothes.

Wait for streets to be cleared of snow.

**L WINTER STRENGTHENS MY COURAGE.**

 *All Repeat Now and at End of Stanza*

*R2* O out into windy, freezing air.

Risk traveling on snowy roads.

Dress warmly and go for a walk.

Be at peace in long days of darkness

**L WINTER BRINGS ME BEAUTY.**

 *All Repeat Now and at End of Stanza*

*R3* Look up at the star-filled sky.

Pause to breathe the crisp air.

Watch steel-blue sunsets.

Marvel at frost etchings on windows.

**L WINTER GIVES ME SILENT HOPE.**

 *All Repeat Now and at End of Stanza*

*R4* Touch the terminal buds on branches

Clear the snow and find moss below.

Watch the sunlight fade, then linger longer

Listen to birds chirping at the feeder.

Adapted from *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp

**Four Directions Prayer**

East

*All Face East*

All good things come from the East.

The freshening wind brings warm rain and sunshine.

Each day guide us to see you in everything we do, everyone we meet.

Be kind in your blessings, Lord.

South
*All Face South*

The warming south winds bring new growth, gentle rain, healing sunshine.

Bless us with enough food and the good things from the earth.

As we eat nourishing food help us to know you as the giver of all good gifts, Lord.

West

*All Face West*

The sun sets in the West giving us glorious colors in our life.

Night can sometimes be scary.

The darkness can also mean calming, healing sleep.

May good dreams and deep sleep cleanse us from all that is bad or evil.

Renew and refresh us, O Lord.

North

*All Face North*

North winds sometimes bring stormy weather and snow.

Let your warmth in our coldness wrap us as with a blanket of love to keep away all that hurts.

May all our people have warm houses and full tables against winter’s chill, Lord.

*The Lakota Prayer Book*, Fr. Charles Flood, SCJ. Edited by Dn. David Nagel, SCJ

**Prayer**

*Leader*

Let us pray.

Creator God, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation.

Bless all of your creatures as a sign of Your wondrous love.

Help us to use our know-how to protect and heal Your gift of nature.

We pray through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Adapted from Prayers to Care for Creation, USCCB,

[www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-to-care-for-creation.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-to-care-for-creation.cfm)

**Song**

All Creatures of Our God and King (*Ritual Song #670*)