

Topic: Season of Creation 2024 Ecumenical and Interfaith Prayer Service.

Theme: “To Hope and Act with Creation’.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Suva in conjunction with Columban Interreligious Dialogue Ministry together with other Faith Based Organizations organized an Ecumenical and Interreligious Season of Creation Prayer Service on the Thursday 3rd October at Ratu Sukuna Park from 5.00-7.30pm. The faith based joined this Interfaith prayer service were from the Methodist Church, Anglican church, Catholic church, Shri Sanatan, Arya Samaj, Fiji Muslim League, Salvation Army Presbyterian church, Seventh Day Adventist, Fiji Evangelic Fellowship, Latter Day Saints and the Bahai Faith to unite and foster a spirit of collaboration and solidarity as stewardships for creation.

The program began an hour early with warming up by the Yuvan band group, Kiri bass dance and spiritual hymns. followed by season of creation videos. His Grace Archbishop Peter Loy Chong introduced the prayer service, and everyone was invited to watch a video was screened on Season of Creation. The different faiths were invited to light the lamp to begin the prayer service.

The faith based voiced out through spiritual hymns, dance, chants, prayers, sharing the sign of peace, scripture readings, reflections to celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that reminds us to love and care for the gift of all that is created. After the three scripture readings, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong gave a sermon on the theme and the first fruits of hope. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. Everyone rejoiced in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and cultivate a spirit of collaboration and love for our planet. The program concluded with a benediction by the Methodist Church President, Rev. Semisi Turagavou.

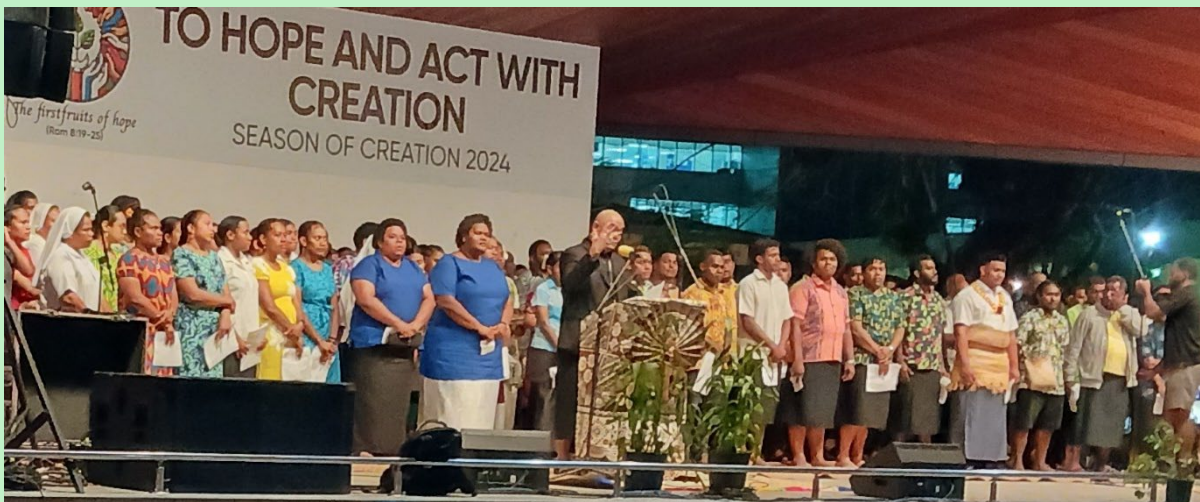
As people of faith, we are called to lift the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action but one embodied in concrete actions of prayer and preaching, service and solidarity.

Approximately 300 people attended the prayer service. At the end he thanked everyone for their participation and attendance to the various faiths, NGOs, Pacific Theological College, Pacific Regional Seminarians, Corpus Christi Teachers College for their participation and support to Care for Our Common Home.



Warming up by the Yuvan group.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/wBpQ5sdzgFm5T9bP/> warming up by Bale Rotuma Family.



Archbishop Peter Loy Chong welcoming guests and connecting on Season of Creation with combine group from CCTC, USP and Suva Catholic youths to sing hymn.



Different faiths are invited to light the Lamp.



Prayer said by Rev. Akuila Yabaki from the Methodist Church for Catholic youths to sing hymn on: Seeds of Hope.



Different faiths participated in the Intercessory Prayers.



Act of Contrition Chant by Bahai Faith.



Gathering of people coming together in prayer.



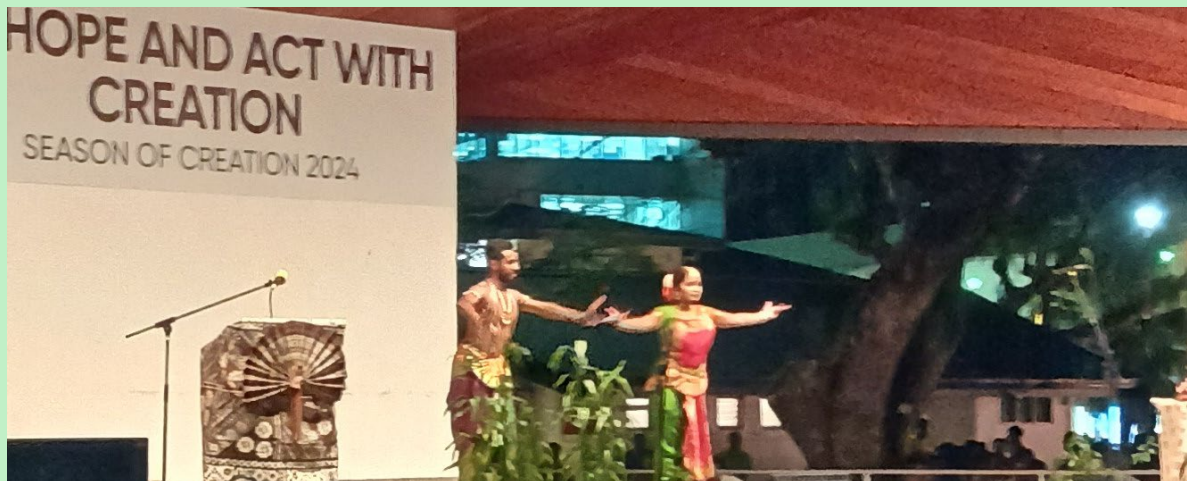
People united in spirit and community.



Act of contrition sung by Salome Madigibuli from the Catholic church.



Act of contrition chant by Kasim from the muslim community.



A creation hymn dance by TISI Sangam organization.



A scripture reading on theme by Seventh Day Adventist church.



Profound sermon and powerful video by Archbishop Peter Loy Chong.



Creation hymn on theme sung by the Methodist Church of Fiji.



Member from Shri Sanatan Dharm in prayer service.



Presider: Deconess Moapa Verenaisi.



Members from various faiths united in solidarity.



Rev. Semisi Turagavou conducting the benediction and Archbishop delivery vote of thanks.



People gathered to listen and share in the power of prayer.



Creation dance by same group (TISI) in creation outdoor environment



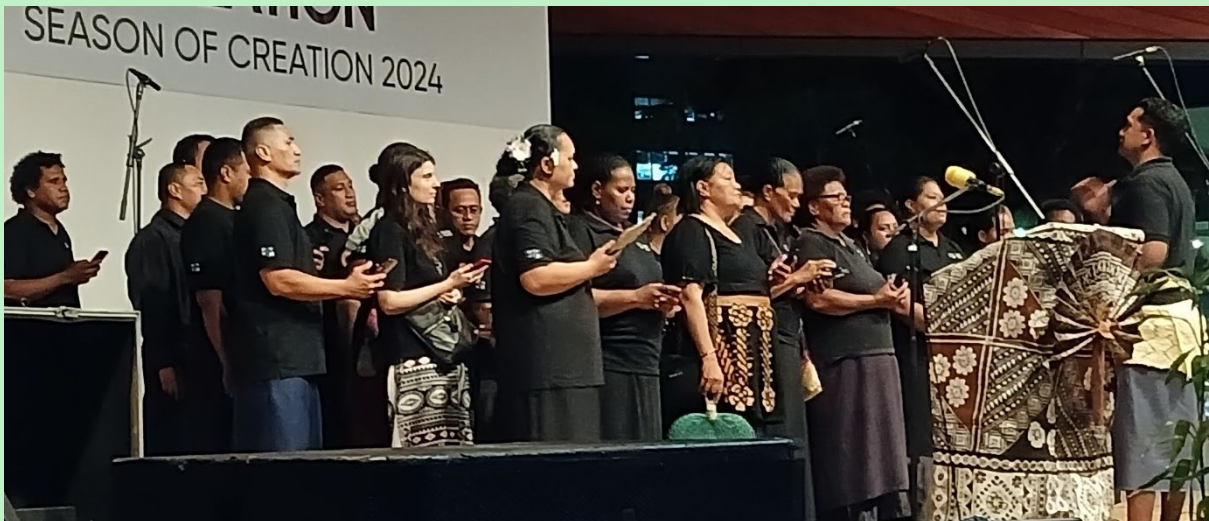
The crowd grows, reflecting our shared spirit and commitment to community.



More people gathered, displaying our unity and shared devotion.



A vibrant outdoor prayer service brought together young people.



A thanksgiving hymn on Season of Creation by the Pacific Theological College and PRS.

Pescila Magdalin
Columban Interreligious Dialogue coordinator.