



5. ZERO WASTE

THIRD SUNDAY OF CREATION, 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Scripture to Ponder - John 6:1-12

"When they all had eaten their fill, Jesus instructed them to gather up what was leftover so nothing would be wasted." We worship a God of abundance who provides to us in abundance. How we receive and share that abundance directly impacts the created world and all of God's beloved children.



REJECT: Consider whether you really need a product before you buy it. Reject single-use plastic items and think critically about those which are packaged in plastic or other wasteful wrappings.



REDUCE: When you *must* purchase products take steps towards reducing their use through efficiency or alternative approaches.



REUSE: Shop second-hand, first! An easy way to reduce the impact of your purchases is to shop locally at charity shops before looking towards the high street or online shops.



RECYCLE: Consider the packaging materials when making purchases and whether modules within the product can be recycled back into biological compost or technical reuse.



RESTORE: Rather than replacing items that are wearing out try to repair them. Look into local repair cafés or groups if you don't know how to fix something.

The Lord be with you...

God of life, we praise you for the beauty of creation, its richness and variety; yet, through greed and ignorance, we scar your world with plastic waste and throw so much away. Make us more like Jesus, treading gently on our common home, and breathe your Spirit on us, that we may care more deeply for your Earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- The Rt Rev Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich



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6. SHARED GOVERNANCE

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Scripture to Ponder - Ecclesiastes 4:9-16

Working together is crucial as we consider restoring the riches of Creation through environmental justice action (like reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions), just as it is in so many areas of life. God did not create us to stand alone. How might you join or lead efforts in your community to work towards change? Whose voices are being left out of the conversation and how could you invite them in?



It will be impossible to measure our impact unless we know where we began. Calculating our CO₂ emissions will be a key part of the journey. Tools will be provided to support congregations in doing this.



DID YOU KNOW? Many energy companies will provide free or low-cost electricity & gas monitors you can keep at home to help you see your energy use in real time. These can help you reduce your footprint (and your bills) by showing you what appliances and habits are using the most energy.



A friendly competition: Why not invite your friends to join the emissions reduction journey? You could measure each household's CO₂ emissions to set a starting point and then challenge each other to reduce by a certain percentage by a given date.

The Lord be with you...

God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory. Deepen our gratitude for all you have made and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other. Inspire all our leaders from around the Province with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and with courage to act urgently and wisely, so our common home may be healed and restored so all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.

- Adapted from the COP27 Climate Summit prayer from the EcoJesuits



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