



7. TRAINING & EDUCATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF CREATION, 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Scripture to Ponder - Proverbs 1:20-23, 33

It can be tempting to take the easy way sometimes: to rely on what we think we know rather than diving into the uncomfortable and sometimes frightening reality around us. But there is freedom in the wisdom that comes from knowledge.



✓ There are many resources available to learn more about the climate crisis and a faithful response to it. **Eco-Congregation Scotland** is a wonderful resource for those looking at where to start on their Net Zero journey.

✓ The Province is working with **Keep Scotland Beautiful** to produce a Climate Literacy Training that will be available to senior leaders of the church from 2024.

✓ **WATCH:** Our Planet (Netflix), Planet Earth (BBC iPlayer), David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet (Netflix); Thank You for the Rain (available for purchase online)

The Lord be with you...

Creator God, we pray for an end to the waste and desecration of your creation; For access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people; And for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

Redeeming One, give us the humility and courage to seek knowledge over conjecture; to admit our ignorance, and to repent of our willful misuse of the resources of your world. Turn our new knowledge into wisdom to guide us towards a future of better stewardship of all you creation.

Sustaining Lord, inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom, and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all; That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression. Amen. - *Adapted from Jesuit Resources Online*



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8. ROOTED WORSHIP

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Scripture to Ponder - Psalm 96

All of our worship should be aimed at praising God for the abundance and grace afforded to all of creation throughout all time. There are numerous psalms in which we hear of the ways that creation praises God. Where have you witnessed creation praising the Lord? How could you bring elements of creation into your personal or corporate worship?



Take it outside! Are there opportunities to engage in worship outside? Head out to the church grounds or a local park. How does the nature of our worship change when we free ourselves of the bounds of a building?



Are there ways your congregation could include creation care and environmental justice in worship all year long?



Consider alternative or creative expressions of worship both at home and in the community. Add prayer time into your daily walk, write intercessions for church while sitting outside at the park, or choose a hymn about creation each Sunday.

The Lord be with you...

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer from The New Zealand Book of Common Prayer



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