

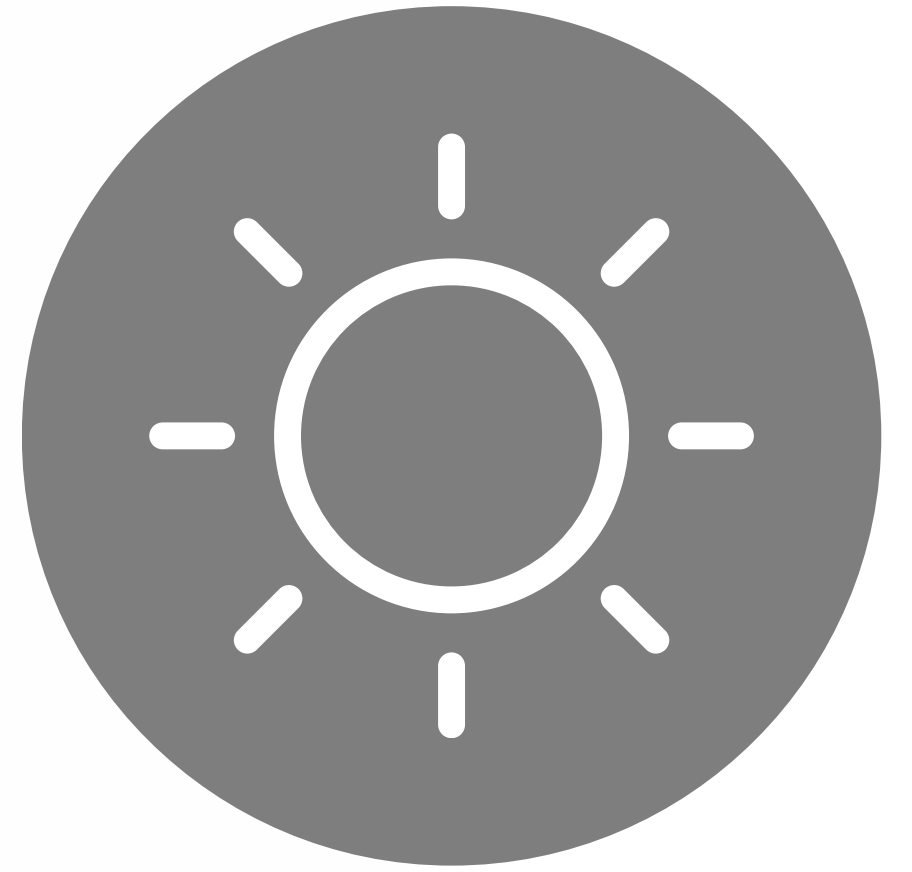
CONSIDER CREATION

ASH WEDNESDAY

Let there be light...

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness was called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.



Questions to Ponder

- How can the theme of God bringing order out of chaos on the first day of creation inspire our efforts toward care for Creation?
- Reflect on the connection between God's spoken word and the manifestation of light. How can our words and intentions influence the environment?
- Consider the transformative power of light. How can we bring light into areas of darkness in our lives and in the world around us?



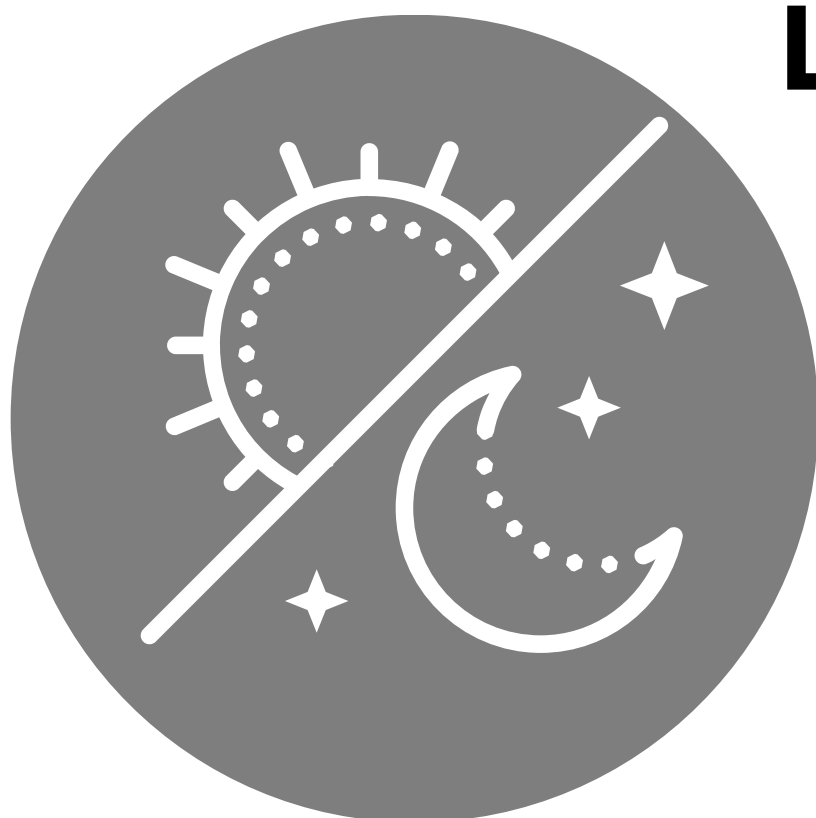
Dive Deeper

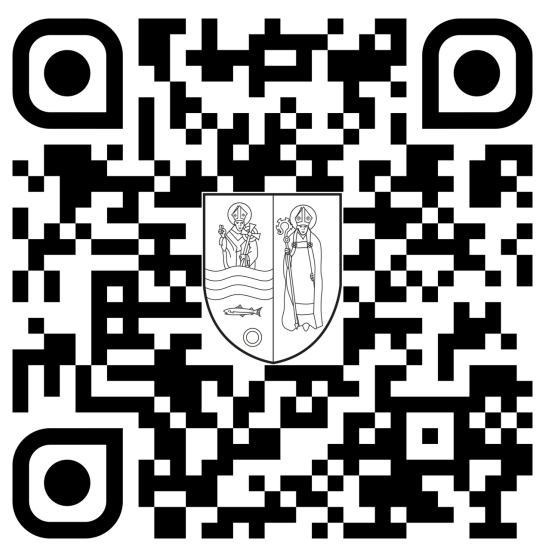
- Start a creation journal. Each day, jot down observations about the natural world around you. Reflect on the beauty and diversity of God's creation.
- Observe the sunrise or sunset. Watch the colours and patterns. What does this make you think of in your own life?
- Learn more about solar power – how does the science of harnessing the sun's power intersect with the theology of creation?
- Find a local conservation project or initiative to support.



Let us pray...

God of All Creation, out of nothing you created all that is - we acknowledge that we, too, came from the dust. Stir our hearts into action. As global temperatures increase, inspire us with ways we can make a difference in our homes, churches, communities, and the world around us. We pray for your prompting where we can do more to love our neighbour. Amen.





CONSIDER CREATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

God Creates the Atmosphere

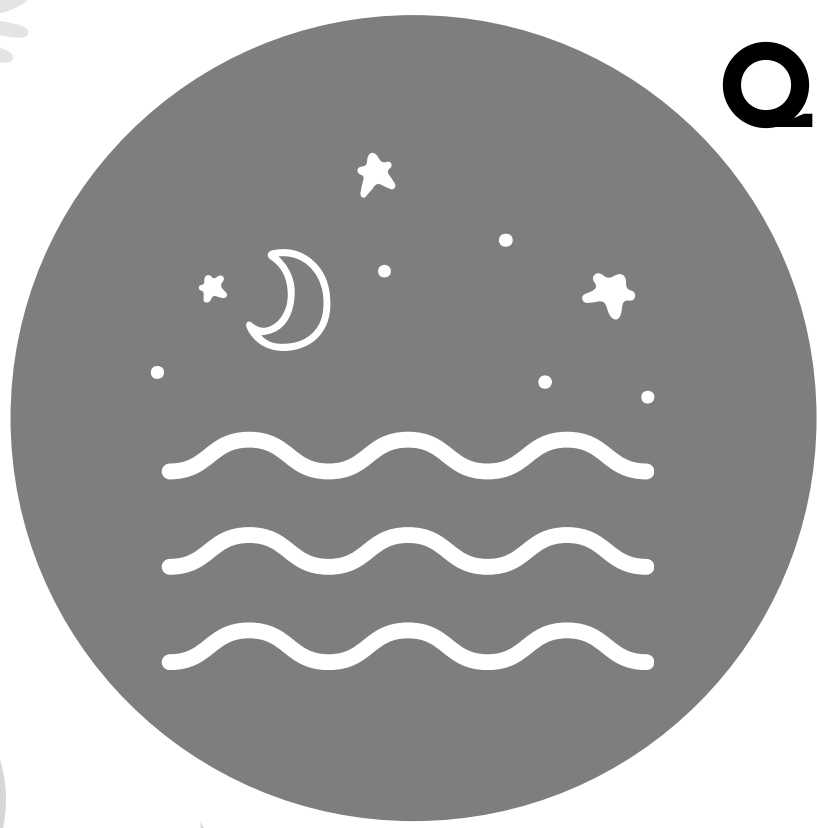
Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.



Questions to Ponder

- Consider the ways God sets up the elements in creation and how they complement each other. How are you connected to the various elements as part of God's creation?
- Reflect on the concept of boundaries in your own life. How might creating healthy boundaries contribute to a more balanced and sustainable way of living?



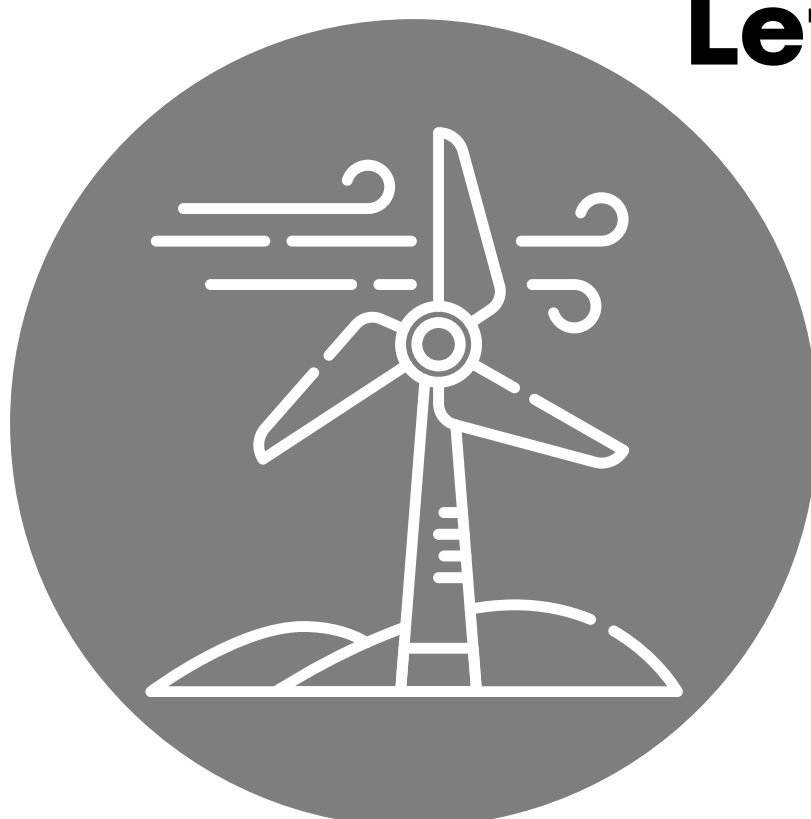
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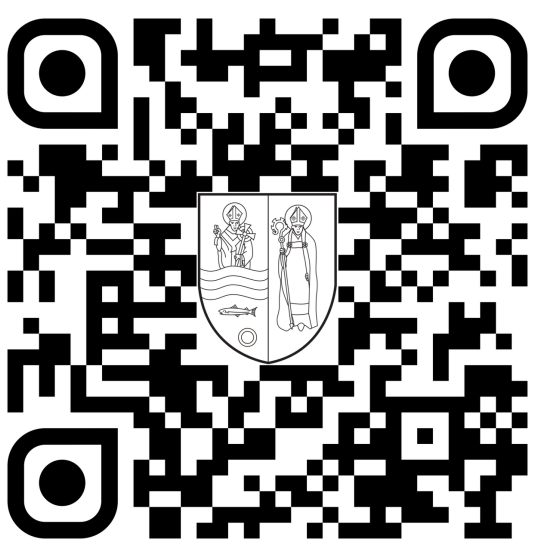
- How much water do you use each week? Each time you use water, think about the source of that water. You may want to engage in a water conservation challenge for the season.
- Are there times when you drive your car out of convenience rather than necessity? Take a look at your diary for the week ahead; are there any journeys when you could schedule a bit more time, allowing you to walk, bike or use public transport?
- Is there a wind farm near where you live? Watch the turbines and think about the ways the breath of God seeks to power your life.
- Learn more about wind power. Visit the link in the QR code to find links to support your learning.



Let us pray...

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Remove the veil from our eyes as we face the ways we have fallen to the temptations of convenience and desire to the detriment of your creation. Strengthen our resolve as we work to make better choices that protect this world and all life you have made; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.





CONSIDER CREATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Let the earth put forth vegetation... Genesis 1:9-13

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.



Questions to Ponder

- The creation story is a story of abundance. Consider the spiritual significance of the land's fertility and abundance.
- Climate change most severely affects those living in the Global South - many of whom already face poverty. What is our responsibility as Christians to ensure the abundance of creation is available to all?



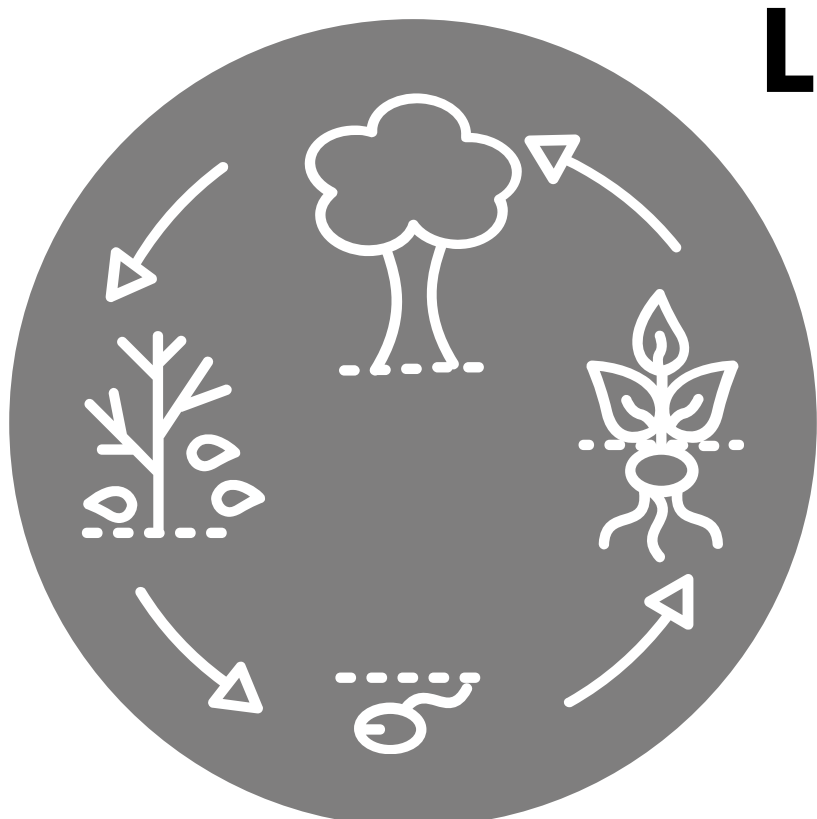
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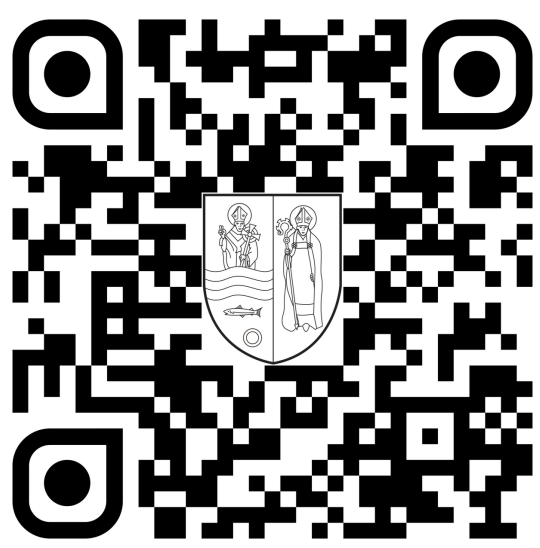
- Plant a tree or support a tree-planting initiative.
- Sow seasonal vegetables or flowers in your garden or indoor pots.
- Organise a beach clean-up, explore the diversity of marine life and the importance of ecosystems.
- Consider a personal commitment to sustainable living. What actions or behavioural changes could have a meaningful impact on the environmental footprint we leave behind?
- Strive to include more locally sourced, plant-based foods in your diet.



Let us pray...

O God, we pray for justice and fairness for those worst impacted by our changing climate. We know people living in extreme poverty around the world are worst affected by the climate crisis but have done the least to contribute to it. They also have the fewest resources to implement change. We ask for your mercy, O Lord, and repent when our blind consumerism has led to the destruction of our common home. Amen.





CONSIDER CREATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

God creates seasons

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Genesis 1:14-19



Questions to Ponder

- Reflect on the cyclical nature of growth and seasons in creation's third and fourth days. How might this inspire a rhythm of rest and renewal in our lives and our care for the environment?
- As the climate crisis goes on, the seasons we have come to expect are changing. What have you noticed about the seasons where you live and how they have changed over the span of your life?



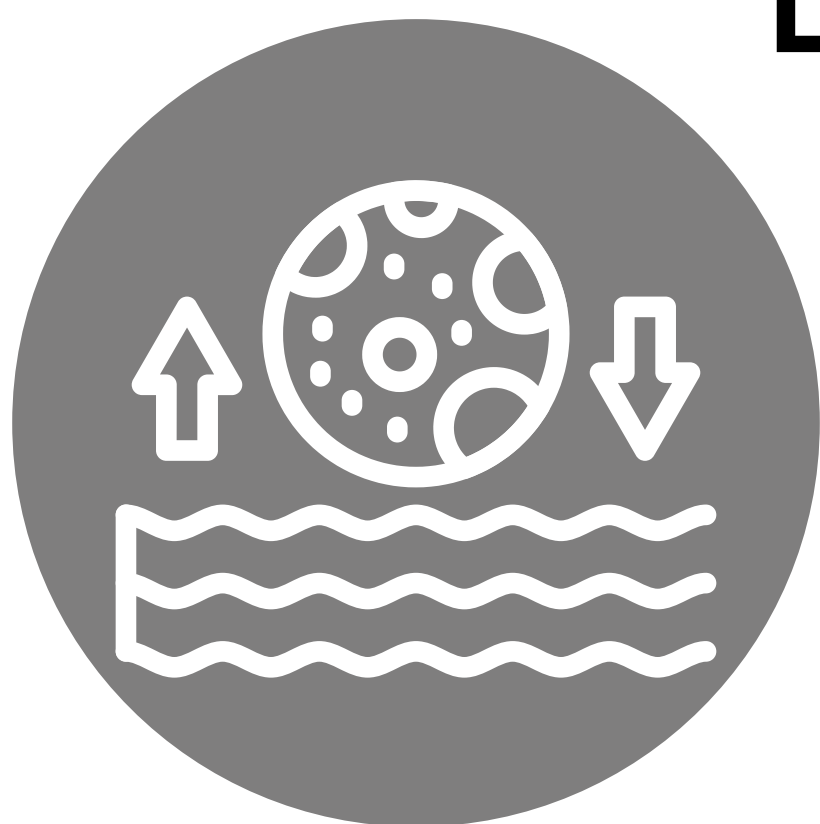
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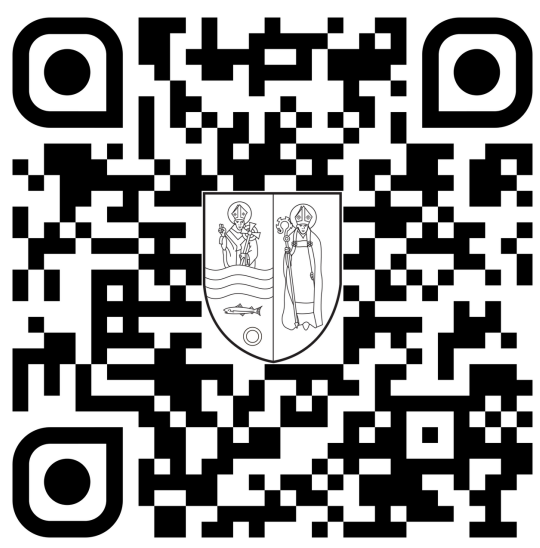
- Next time you want to dry washing in the tumble dryer, make a conscious effort to hang it on the line instead. Take a moment to say a prayer of thanks to God for the creation and pray for all living beings whose lives are threatened by the climate crisis.
- Work with your church leadership to develop ways to incorporate climate conversations into the seasons of the church year.
- Write to your MP and MSPs to ask them how they are ensuring our governments are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement environmental protection policies.



Let us pray...

Heavenly Creator, thank you for the warming sunshine, the cooling light of the moon, and for the stars you scattered across the universe. We praise you for the beauty of the seasons and the ways they teach us about the beauty of your Holy Word. Accompany us on this continued pilgrimage of discovery through our Lenten journey with Creation Care. Embolden us to take actions each day that will bring us closer to the image of environmental stewards you had in mind when you made us. Amen.



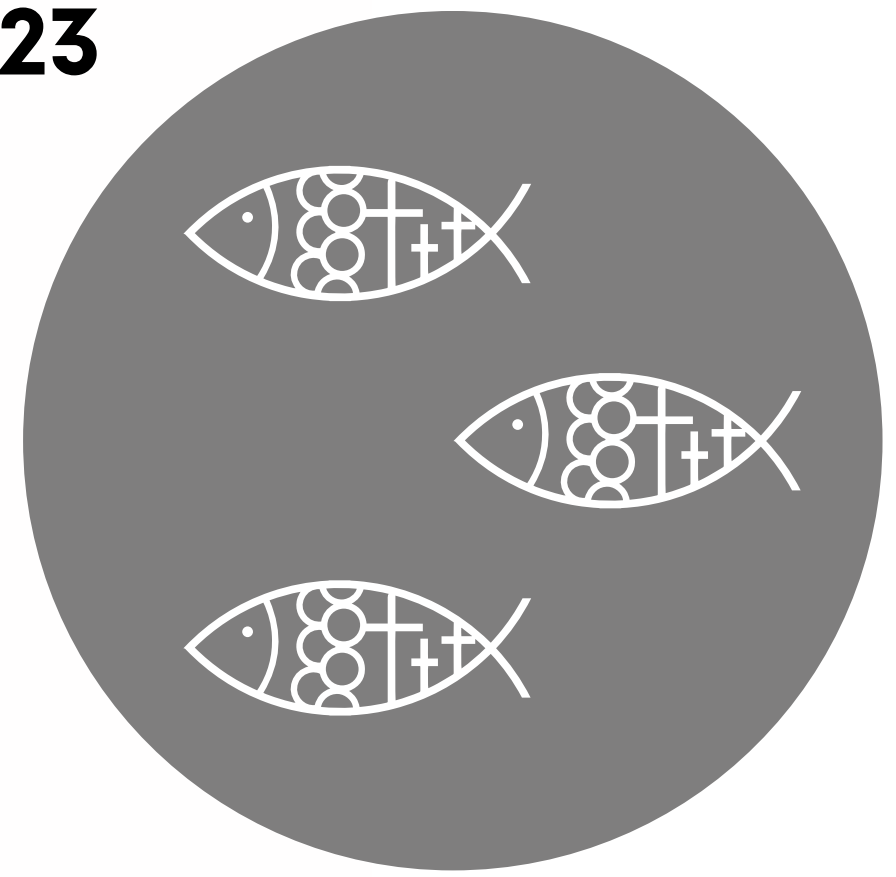


CONSIDER CREATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

God creates life in the sky & sea Genesis 1:20-23

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.



Questions to Ponder

- How does God's blessing upon the creatures of the sky and the sea inform our understanding of the sanctity of all living things?
- As you consider the variety of species that have evolved over time, what does this tell you of God's vision for a good creation?
- The season of Lent calls us to "true repentance and amendment of life". If we were to repent of the damage we have caused to the creation, of what would we repent? How would we seek to make amends?



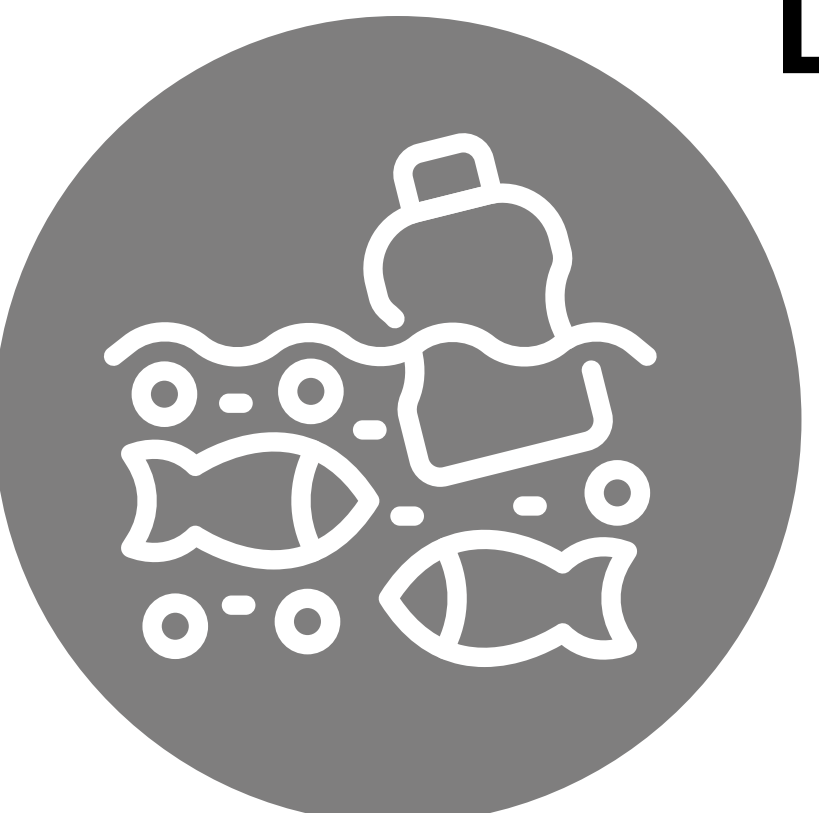
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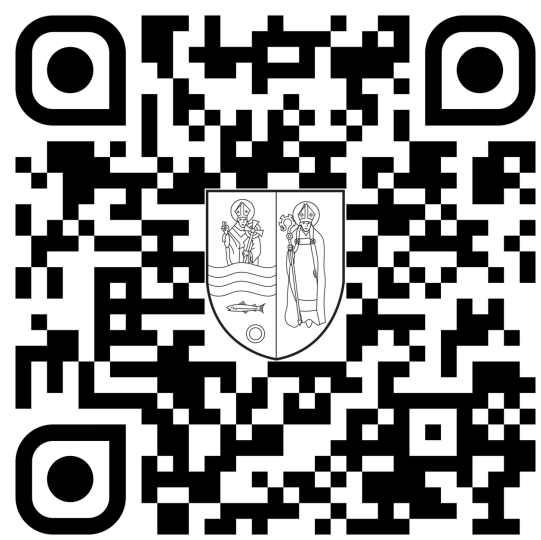
- Create a bird feeder or insect-friendly garden space.
- How we travel directly impacts the atmosphere which protects our world. Consider the types of transport you use most frequently. How could you change your travel habits to reduce your impact?
- Learn more about the impact of plastic waste on the oceans and waterways. Commit to reducing your impact by limiting your use of single-use plastics and opting for plastic-free alternatives.



Let us pray...

Creator of our common home, you fill the earth and sea and sky with life. Forgive us our neglect of your creation: the choking waste of our pollution, the damage done by careless habits, and our indifference to future generations. Help us to amend our lives, to lift our voice for lasting change, and to live well and gently on the earth. To the glory of your Son, the Living Word through whom you made this fragile world. Amen.





CONSIDER CREATION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

God creates living creatures

Genesis 1:24-31

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over all living things.' So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God they were created. God blessed them, and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant... and every tree... and its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that was made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Questions to Ponder



- Think about the concept of “dominion over all living things” as a call to exercise authority with humility and care. How does the sixth day inform our understanding of humanity's role in safeguarding Creation?
- What is the significance of the creation of humanity in God's image? How does this inspire a commitment to honour and care for everyone as a child of God?
- Reflect on the consequences of human actions on creation.

Dive Deeper

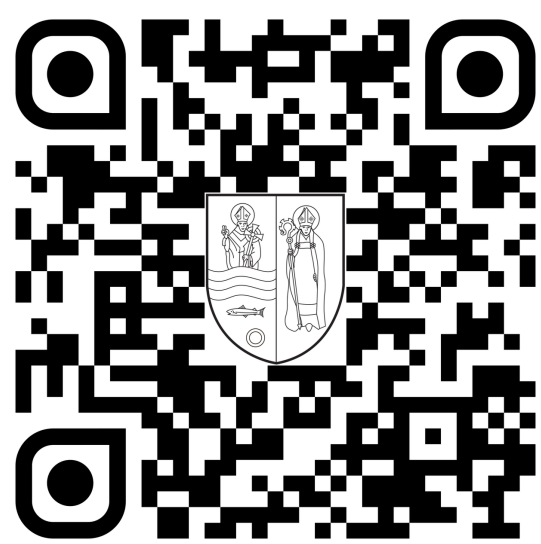
- Find local groups in your community who are already engaged in environmental work. Are there ways you can get directly involved?
- Develop a personal or community pledge to care for Creation.
- Go on a litter pick in your local green space. While you are there, pray for each of the species you encounter: from the smallest insect to the liveliest child.
- Talk to your loved ones about ways you can work together for the good of the Earth.



Let us pray...

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 one people, united in the cause of protecting this fragile earth and all life it holds. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution or destruction. Teach us to discover the worth of each living thing and to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature and species. Amen.





CONSIDER CREATION

PALM SUNDAY

The Sabbath

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

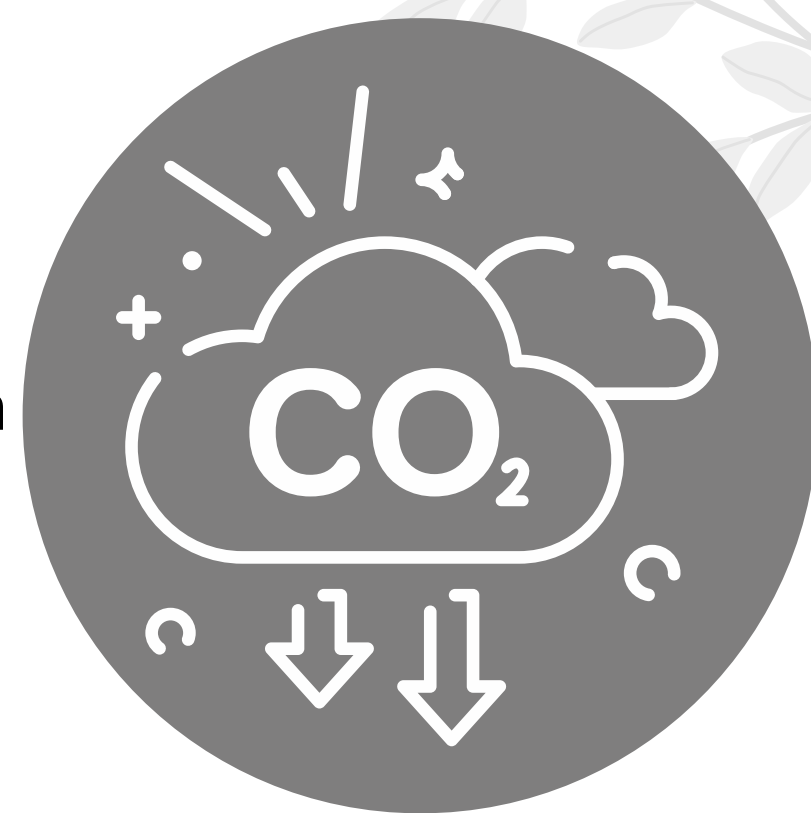


Questions to Ponder

- Throughout the account of Creation, we learn that God blessed the creation and called it good. In this passage, we hear that the “heavens and the earth were finished.” When we think about how much has changed within creation, what is our responsibility in returning the creation to a closer image of the goodness God had made?
- How does honouring the Sabbath enhance our mission as champions for climate preservation?

Dive Deeper

- Start or join your congregation’s eco ministry.
- Plan to honour the sabbath by powering down - can you go a whole day each week limiting or eliminating your use of appliances, electricity, and fossil fuel-powered vehicles?
- Take a local nature walk, meditating on Psalm 24: 1-2 “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. For it is God who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.” How could this practice change the way you approach environmental stewardship?



Let us pray...

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 shall echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth 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 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.

