



NZ Lay Preachers Association | AKL Ecumenical Gathering



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Association

Preaching the (Sustainable) Gospel



Peter Lane
Climate Justice Working Group
AELP Presentation 27th July 2024

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Introduction & Structure

Session 1

- A small amount of theology of the Season of Creation
- Discussion
- Break

Session 2

- Review the Season of Creation 2024 resource
- Review the up coming Methodist Church of NZ resource
- A quick peek at some other noteworthy resources sites
- Discussion



Session One

Theology of the Season of Creation

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Key Theological Principles

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Creation Care

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Genesis 2:15

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. (NRSVA)

¹⁵ *Adonai*, God, took the person and put him in the garden of 'Eden to cultivate and care for it. (CJB)

¹⁵ Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. (GNT)

¹⁵ Therefore the Lord God took man, and set him in (the) paradise of liking, that he should work and keep it. (And so the Lord God took the man, and put him in the Garden of Eden, so that he would work it, and care for it.) (WYB)



Genesis 1:26-28 NRSVA

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind^[a] in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[b] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind^[c] in his image, in the image of God he created them;^[d] male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'



Psalm 24:1 NRSVA

Entrance into the Temple

Of David. A Psalm.

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;

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Interconnectedness

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Romans 8:19-23 NRSVA

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.



Justice & Stewardship

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Defilement

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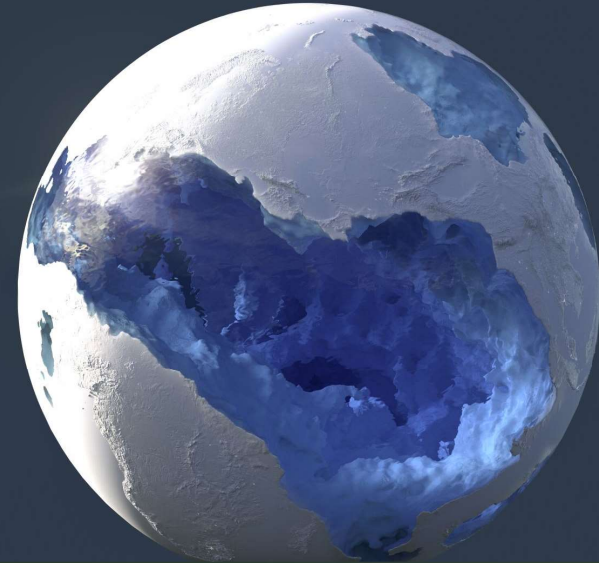


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Revelation and pollution: The destroyers of the earth

In the Bible pollution is both moral
and material

- Numbers 35:34
- Isaiah 24:4-6
- Rev 11:18



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The destroyers of the earth

Numbers 35:34 NRSVA

³⁴ You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the Israelites.

Revelation 11:18 NRSVA

¹⁸ The nations raged, but your wrath has come, and the time for judging the dead, for rewarding your servants,^[a] the prophets and saints and all who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the earth.'

Isaiah 24:4-6

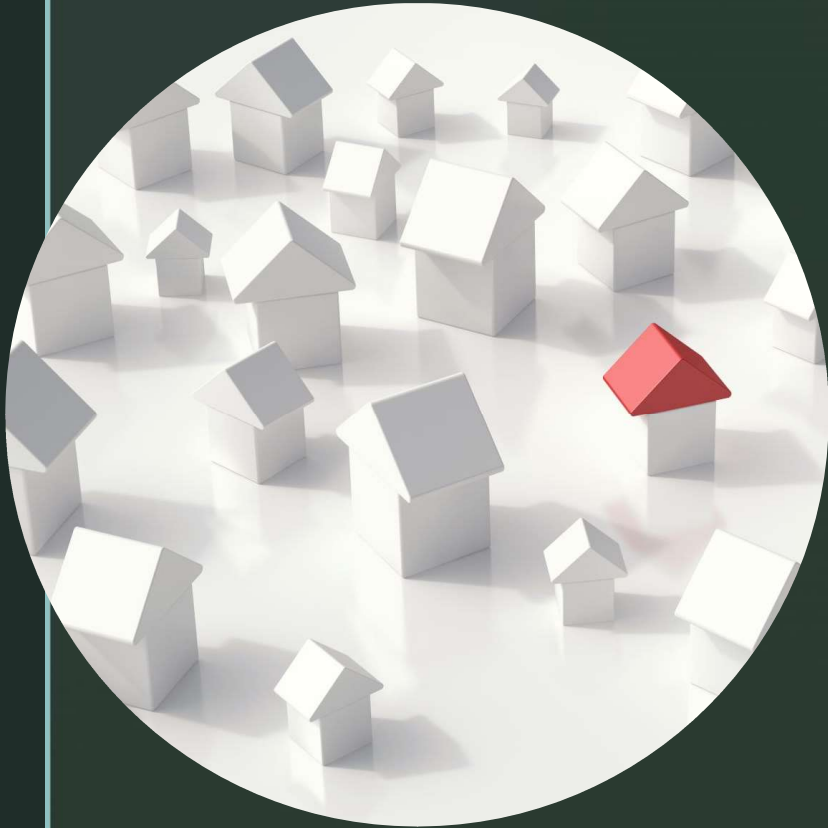
⁴ The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth.

⁵ The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.

⁶ Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore, the inhabitants of the earth dwindled, and few people are left.



How We fail to Serve and Preserve the earth

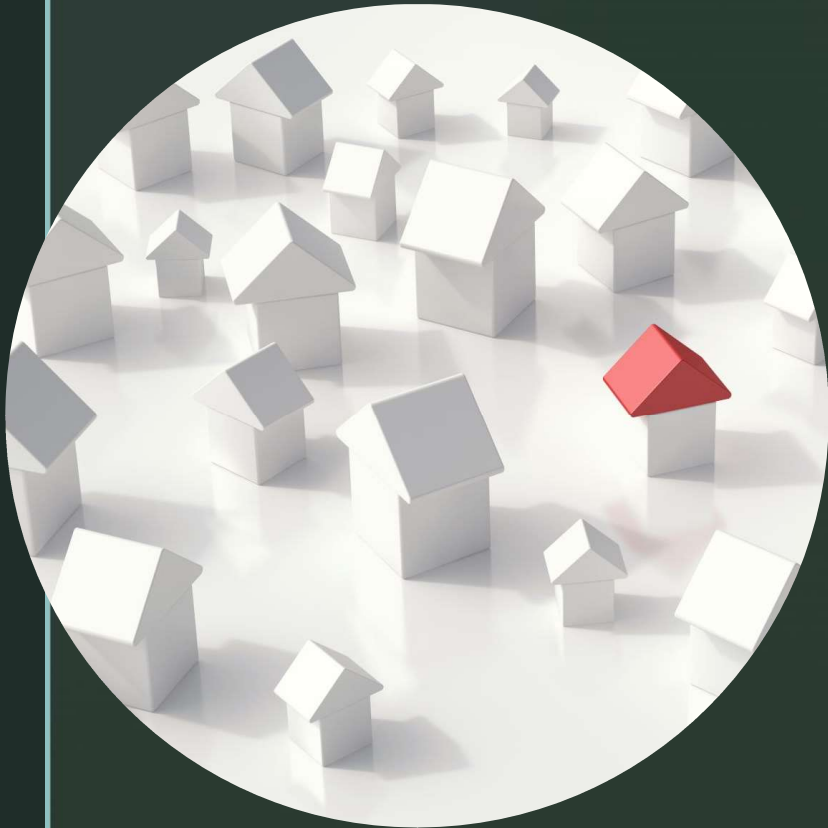


Three ways in which Christians fail to help with creation care

- Feeling too small
- Passivity because God is so powerful
- Not thinking it matters because of our anthropology or eschatology



How We fail to Serve and Preserve the earth



Three ways we can help with creation care

- Paying attention
- Understanding our interconnectedness
- Theology / Churches



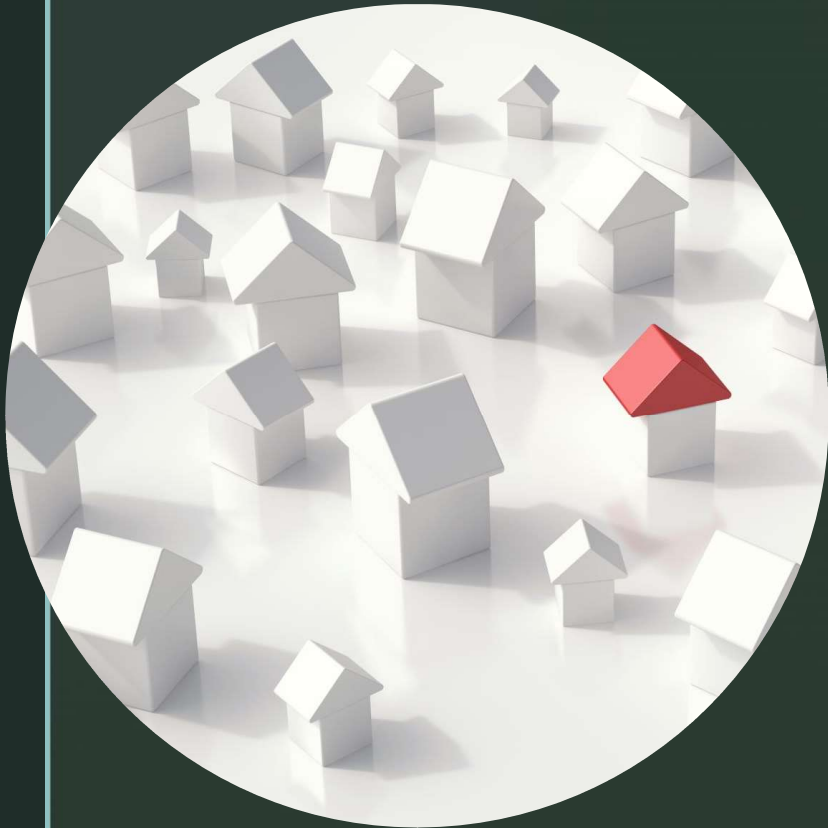
**Lynn White Jr. : Christians have an
instrumental view of nature because of
Genesis**

**But what we need is a revival of the
Franciscan wisdom within our churches**

*We shall continue to have
a worsening ecological
crisis until we reject the
Christian axiom that nature
exists only to help
[humans].*



How We fail to Serve and Preserve the earth



Three ways we can help with creation care

- Paying attention
- Understanding our interconnectedness
- Theology / Churches



3. Theologies:

Although the creation is not God, it shares some of the character of God, and reveals the nature of God – is a temple for God’s Spirit:

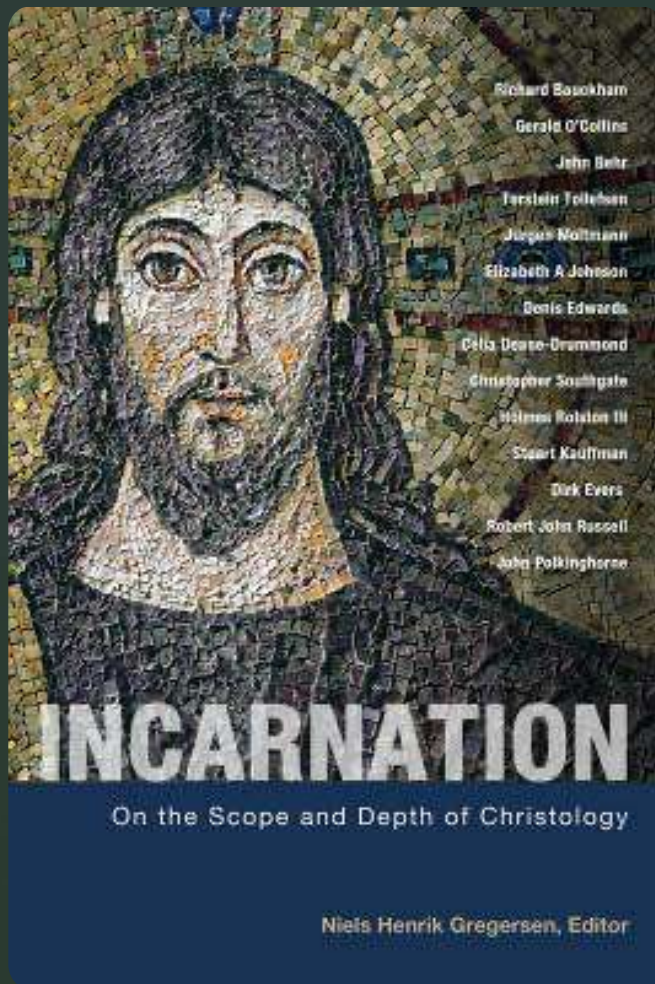
- “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it”, (Ps24)
- “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God’s hands” (Ps 19:1)
- “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – God’s eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made” (Rom 1:20).



Colossians 1:15-19

- The Son is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**.
- For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...
- All things have been created through him and for him.
- He is before all things, and in him all things hold together...
- For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.





Theologies that do help

- Be clear that we have freedom to act, agency, and responsibility for the planet
- The vision of fecundity at the end of the Book of Revelation
- Deep Incarnation: Jesus takes on matter, DNA, gut bacteria as well as social status
- That what God has created together will be redeemed together



How does the Church help?



- Repent & promote Repentance
- Organise the effort to make things right
- Create Resilient communities
- Hope
- Be Missional to all God's creatures
- Be Just | Promote Justice
- Treat Nature as Sacred
- Believe God is working with us

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What can we all do??



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- Pay attention to nature
- Pay attention to science – the hidden headlines
- Think hard about how you feel de-motivated and read the Scriptures prayerfully
- Look for ways of being a part of the solution
- Make habits of all the practical suggestions and embed them in your church as well
- Vote strategically
- Find some way of making your work (occupation) be connected to the great enterprise of planet healing

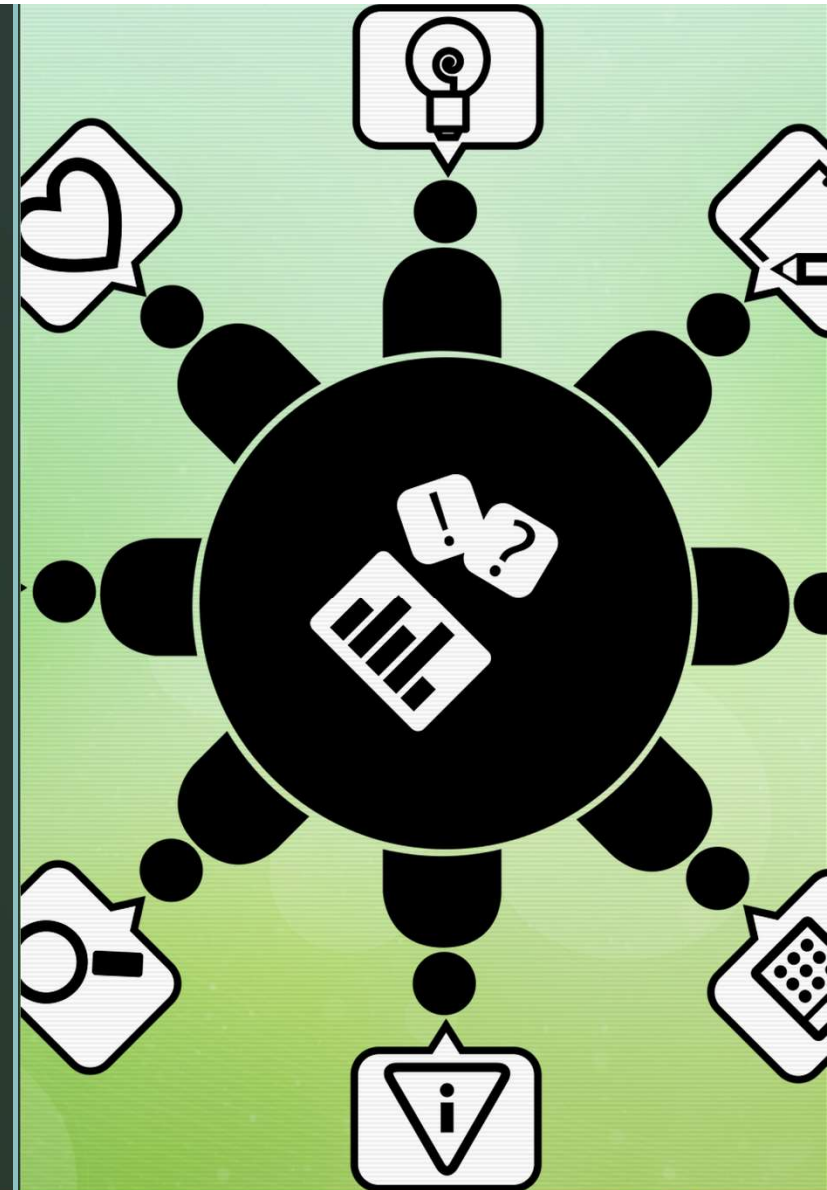
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Discussion

- St Francis sees light, wind and fire as tools through which God influences the world. How might that change your view of them?
- What can we learn about God and His plan for humanity from considering the natural world?
- How connected do you feel to the elements of creation which St Francis sets out?
- What could we do today to recognise the value of all creation?
- What lessons can we learn from the Canticum of Creation?



Take a Break!



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**Reflect on what you've heard.
Hydrate | Caffeinate | Eliminate**

Session Two
Resources

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Introduction to Season of Creation

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Resource Review

SeasonOf Creation.org



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

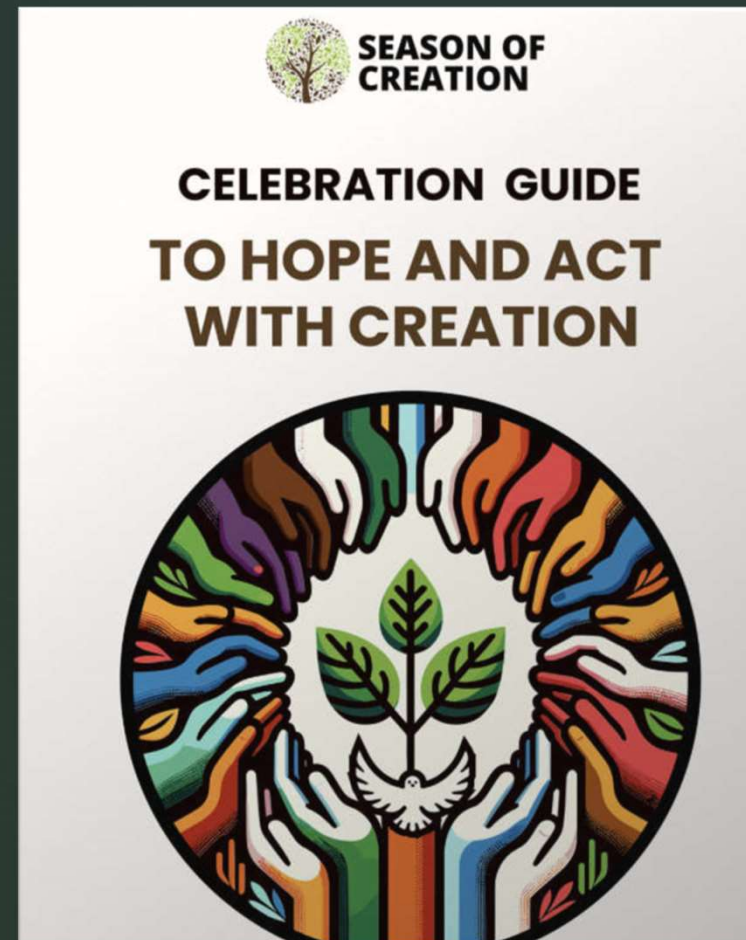
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Liturgy Resource

- Global Calendar
- An overarching prayer for the Season
- Ideas for Sep 1 Feast of Creation
- Advocacy suggestions
- An Order for an Ecumenical Prayer Service”
- Activity ideas to incorporate in your own events or services



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Season of Creation 2024 Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen

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Resource Review

MCNZ Season of Creation Resource Kete

Liturgy Resource

- Global Resources, plus collected resources for each Sunday
- A collection of overarching resources for the whole Season
- For each Sunday, collections of readings, quotes, prayers, hymns and “Tasters, threads, markers for reflection”
- An Order for a Communion Service is given for the 1st Sunday, but is noted that it could be used any Sunday of the Season



Prayer for Walking in the Season of Creation

God of earth and sea and sky,
we give thanks for the gift of life,
for the goodness and wonder of all creation.

As we walk in this Season of Creation
may we walk with joy and gratitude in our hearts,
for the whole community of life.

May we walk with humility,
with all our senses open,
so that we grow in awareness,
and in our sense of connection
with the natural world.

May we also notice the ways,
in which humanity is hurting creation.

May our walk help us to change the way that we live,
and to live in right relationship with the earth.

Let us walk for a more hopeful future,
and sow seeds that create justice and healing.

Amen



Worthy Mentions

Additional Resources

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<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/creation-2024/>

EcoChaplain Prayer for the Season [Here] video version
Global Movement Prayer: [HERE]

On this page: Resources for study, action and prayer, freely offered by EcoCongregation Scotland for devotional use.
Underlined text is a link

TEXT NOTES & PRAYERS:all readings, all 6 weeks
Week 1: 01.09
Week 2: 08.09
Week 3: 15.09
Week 4 22.09
Week 5 29.09
Week 6 06.10

MAJOR VIDEO reflections & location readings: 15 Mins or less: Sermon-slot video
Links to some video readings included with the text notes.

BROCHURE
PDF BROCHURE
Video brochure with links
Wk 1: 'Love-song with Creation's Kin'.
A Love-song WITH Creation's Kin
Song of Songs 2:8-13, Mark 7: 1-8 14:15/21/23
Wk 2 'Mountain

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
PAGE OF PRAYERS & POEMS
SUITE OF SERMONS: On Lectionary readings, with questions for group discussion
RECYCLED HYMNS: new words to old songs from the work of the EcoChaplaincy
5 FOR THE ROAD: new singable hymn poems for the 2024 Season

STILLING VIDEOS .2 min videos, to introduce prayer & reflection

DENOMINATIONAL & GLOBAL
Churches together in Britain and Ireland
Season of Creation: Global Celebration Guide
Episcopal Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway
Laudato Si Movement:
UK Methodist Church: **ACTION FOR HOPE**
Celebrating Feast of Creation
Way of Creation [Via Creationis]
Statement of Faith often used in Iona

ARCHIVE
2021 Year B Resources (readings_as 2024)

The Voice we need to hear - video for URC General Assembly
VIDEO RESOURCES GRAND INDEX
Screenshot
Thematic Index 2023
Thematic Index 2022

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Good News Gardens Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church Good News Gardens: Good News Gardens is a church-wide movement of individuals, congregations, schools, colleges, seminaries, monasteries, camps and conference centers involved in a variety of food and creation care ministries – gardening, farming, beekeeping, composting, gleaning, feeding, food justice advocacy. The Season of Creation and the Feast of St. Francis are fantastic opportunities to celebrate farm and garden ministries in your community, or to consider starting a new Good News Garden.



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Websites Worth a Watch

- <https://greenfaith.org/resource-list/>
- <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/season-of-creation-and-st-francis-day-resources/>
- <https://seasonofcreation.com/resources/>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/creationtide/creationtide-resources>
- <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/season-of-creation/season-of-creation-background/>



A Season of Creation Charter

In a Season of Creation we will:

1. **Celebrate** Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence.
2. **Unite** with all creation in praising the God of creation.
3. **Confess** our sins against creation and empathise with a groaning creation.
4. **Embrace** our kin in creation as our extended family.
5. **Proclaim** the good news that the risen Jesus is the cosmic Christ who fills and renews all creation.
6. **Go forth** on a mission to be partners with Christ in the healing of creation.

From <<https://seasonofcreation.com/about/>>

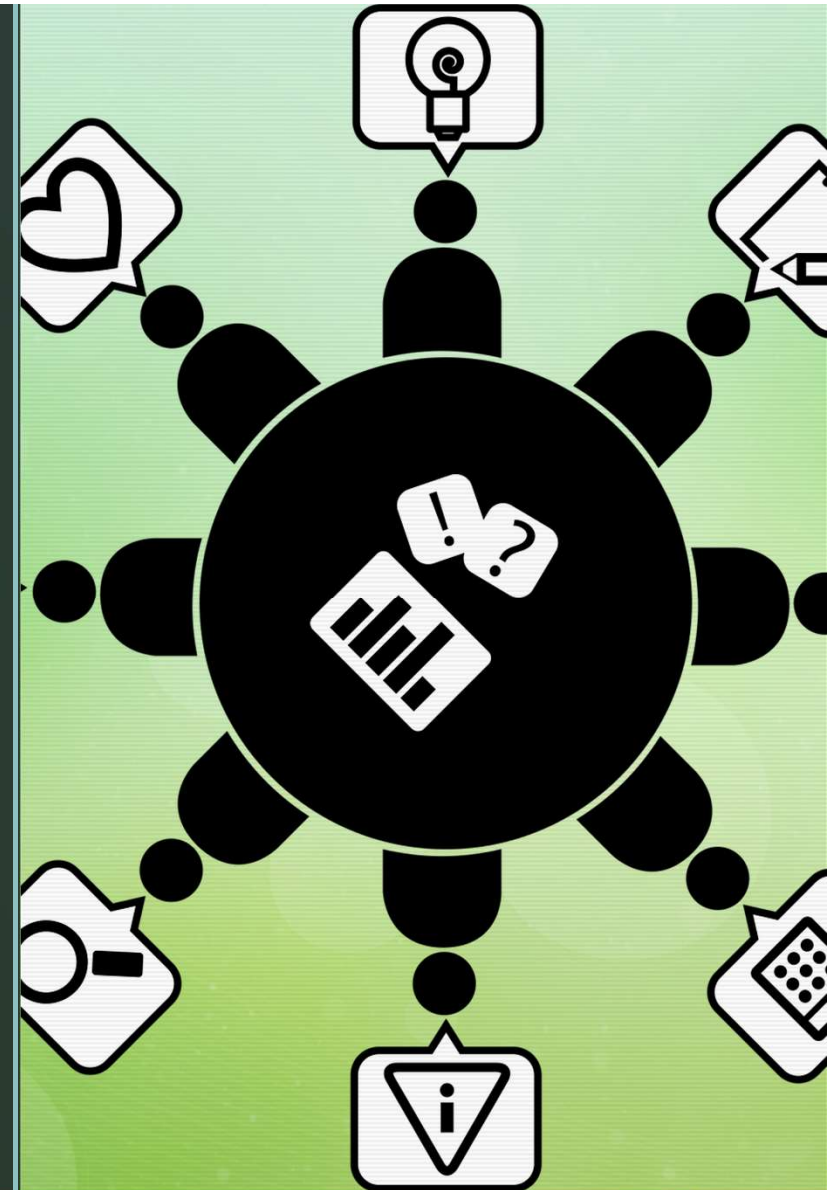
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Discussion

- What other Resources are you aware of? What is your favourite one?
- How can we engage the congregation and the wider community in creation care worship? Or Creation Care initiatives?
- What are the key themes of Season Of Creation? How can they be incorporated in worship?





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Thanks for Being Here!

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