

Because the world can change a lot in 40 days.

# Lenten Creation Care 2021

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God’s Creation throughout this season.

May this calendar remind us to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it.

On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty — those most harmed by our damaged climate — may we answer God’s call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care.



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Our religious response to climate change.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>A prayer from Psalm 51:</p> <p><i>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Creator God, we begin this Lenten season asking for Your renewal. Through prayer, fasting, and sharing over these 40 days, we ask that our eyes be opened to the ways we can do better; in our relationships with You, Your Creation, and all those with whom we share this, our common home. Lord, help us to restore what has been damaged through our sinful overconsumption and the systemic injustices that surround us, returning to You with renewed spirits.</i></p>			<p><b>FEBRUARY 17</b></p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b>  <i>“All are from the dust, and to dust all return.”</i>                      - Ecclesiastes 3:20</p> <p>Reflect with gratitude on the reality that we all are made of and fed by the earth.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Tonight @ 6 pm, join Creation Justice Ministries for “ResiLENT Worship: Preaching Our Way to Climate Resilience,” an online workshop on incorporating climate-resilient worship in your community:  <a href="http://bit.ly/CJMresilience">bit.ly/CJMresilience</a></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><i>“Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.”</i>                      - Psalm 25:4                      The path to climate justice passes through every other struggle we face. Listen to NAACP’s Jacqui Patterson on intersectionality: <a href="http://bit.ly/intersectionalpodcast">bit.ly/intersectionalpodcast</a></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Learn how to compost at home! DC Dept. of Public Works online workshop, 9-11 am. Participants qualify for a rebate up to \$75 towards a worm composting system: <a href="http://DPW.DC.gov/page/home-composting-program">DPW.DC.gov/page/home-composting-program</a></p>
<p>Read Psalm 25. <b>21</b>                      As we continue to grieve all that has been lost in the last year and all that is being lost to climate damage, spend some time outside today, taking deep breaths and making space for grief and lament.</p>	<p><b>22</b>                      Is your local stream clean enough for baptism? Find your waterway and its health: <a href="http://mywaterway.epa.gov">mywaterway.epa.gov</a>. Pray: “God of sacred waters, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. May we be a blessing to Your waters.”</p>	<p><b>23</b>                      Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree. In cold weather, aim for 68° during the day and 60° at night. Buy a programmable thermostat if you can. Always turn the heat off when you leave home.</p>	<p><b>24</b>                      However your church is worshipping right now, consider ordering “eco palms” for Palm Sunday. They help improve workers’ living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/5: <a href="http://EcoPalms.org">EcoPalms.org</a></p>	<p><b>25</b>                      We can each be a part of the powerful grassroots movement we’ll need to address the climate crisis! Take a moment to listen to Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman’s song, “The tide is rising, and so are we!” <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/the-tide-is-rising">IPLdmv.org/the-tide-is-rising</a></p>	<p><b>26</b>                      Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for centuries. Try eating vegetarian today and check out Oxfam’s Eat for Good program for other ways to use your fast to bless others: <a href="http://bit.ly/eat4good">bit.ly/eat4good</a></p>	<p><b>27</b>                      Learn about Indigenous Peoples near you: <a href="http://egis.hud.gov/tdat">egis.hud.gov/tdat</a>. Practice acknowledging the original people of the land — use <a href="http://native-land.ca">native-land.ca</a> to search — where you live, work, and pray: <a href="http://CreationJustice.org/indigenous">CreationJustice.org/indigenous</a></p>
<p><b>28</b>  <i>“I am establishing my covenant with you, your descendants, and with every living creature ...”</i> - Gen. 9:9-10                      Pick a spiritual practice and experience the interdependence of Creation: <a href="http://CenterForSpiritualityInNature.org/practices">CenterForSpiritualityInNature.org/practices</a></p>	<p><b>MARCH 1</b>                      Weatherize your home and prevent heat (and money) from being wasted! Find project ideas and rebates: <a href="http://DCSEU.com/homes">DCSEU.com/homes</a>, <a href="http://bit.ly/weatherizehome">bit.ly/weatherizehome</a></p>	<p><b>2</b>                      What role does your church community play in repairing our climate? Get involved with our green work, and flock together with other “green sheep” through IPL-DMV: <a href="http://bit.ly/IPLsignup">bit.ly/IPLsignup</a></p>	<p><b>3</b>                      One impactful action you can take right now? Talk to people in your life about the climate crisis. Listen to this podcast for tools for opening conversations and confronting climate silence: <a href="http://bit.ly/interfaithpod">bit.ly/interfaithpod</a></p>	<p><b>4</b>                      On average, a family of four in the US uses 40 gallons of water per day just in the shower! Set a timer for 5 minutes and consider installing a low-flow showerhead: <a href="http://EPA.gov/WaterSense/showerheads">EPA.gov/WaterSense/showerheads</a></p>	<p><b>5</b>                      Get your energy from above! See if your home is a good candidate for solar and go solar, together with neighbors, through Solar United Neighbors: <a href="http://SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/dc/go-solar-in-d-c/dc-go-solar-group">SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/dc/go-solar-in-d-c/dc-go-solar-group</a></p>	<p><b>6</b>  <i>“The Lord God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”</i>                      - Gen. 2:15                      Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors! An herb garden in your kitchen window can be an easy way to start.</p>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship outdoors today either on your own or by connecting safely with others for the Wild Earth Spiritual Community gathering @ 3 pm. Find the details and register: <a href="http://WildeEarthSpiritual.org/monthly-gatherings">WildeEarthSpiritual.org/monthly-gatherings</a> <b>7</b>	In the US, > 30% of all food is wasted. Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Compost at home or through DC's Community Compost Network: <a href="http://bit.ly/DCcompost">bit.ly/DCcompost</a> <b>8</b>	Listen today to this powerful conversation among three Christian climate leaders from Sojourners, calling us to move from Creation care to climate discipleship: <a href="http://bit.ly/sojopanel">bit.ly/sojopanel</a> <b>9</b>	Care for Creation and support clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels: <a href="http://GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest">GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest</a> , and choosing a bank that aligns with your values: <a href="http://GreenAmerica.org/better-banking">GreenAmerica.org/better-banking</a> <b>10</b>	There's nothing "natural" about burning gas for power. Methane is a climate super polluter which traps far more heat than carbon dioxide. Learn more: <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/gas">IPLdmv.org/gas</a> <b>11</b>	Purchase locally-grown food this weekend. Walk to a farmers' market or join a community-supported agriculture group: <a href="http://LocalHarvest.org">LocalHarvest.org</a> or sign up to receive rescued produce weekly: <a href="http://HungryHarvest.net">HungryHarvest.net</a> <b>12</b>	In your home, replace incandescent and compact fluorescent lights with LEDs. Each bulb replaced will save hundreds of pounds of climate pollution over time. Google your utility for rebate and incentive programs. <b>13</b>
"For God so loved the Cosmos ..." - John 3:16 God's circle of love is infinite and all-inclusive. Reflect and open your heart today to those in Creation, human or non-human, who sometimes fall outside your circle of love. <b>14</b>	"You will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." - Isaiah 58:12b <b>15</b>  Take time today to repair something that you might otherwise have discarded and replaced.	Wash laundry in cold water this week and hang it up to dry to save energy and money. Read more here: <a href="http://bit.ly/DitchYourDryer">bit.ly/DitchYourDryer</a> <b>16</b>	"On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and its leaves are for the healing of the nations." - Rev. 22:2 <b>17</b>  Apply here to get a free native tree for your yard: <a href="http://bit.ly/DCtreeprogram">bit.ly/DCtreeprogram</a>	IPC's online trainings can help strengthen your congregation's green team this spring: <a href="http://InterfaithChesapeake.org/greenteams">InterfaithChesapeake.org/greenteams</a> and sign up for more: <a href="http://bit.ly/IPCgreenteam">bit.ly/IPCgreenteam</a> <b>18</b>	As you fast from meat today, consider plant-based dishes for Easter Sunday: <a href="http://StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes">StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes</a> <b>19</b>	Pray for our neighbors who face environmental devastation and for the courage to sustain your commitment to environmental justice. Read about the work of WE ACT: <a href="http://WEACT.org/we-act-in-washington-dc">WEACT.org/we-act-in-washington-dc</a> <b>20</b>
"God of grace and salvation, today we open our ... hearts to the pain of our planet." Reflect on the role the church has had in the degradation of Creation; consider reciting this litany with your church: <a href="http://bit.ly/envconfession">bit.ly/envconfession</a> <b>21</b>	Green grass lawns are not so "green." Learn how to cultivate grounds that are good for people, plants, and creatures at home: <a href="http://bit.ly/greenergrounds">bit.ly/greenergrounds</a> , and at church: <a href="http://bit.ly/sacredchurchgrounds">bit.ly/sacredchurchgrounds</a> <b>22</b>	Many of us have traveled much less this year. Even after the pandemic, how can we minimize our plane and car travel, and the pollution it causes? Fund a project that helps offset your carbon footprint: <a href="http://NativeEnergy.com">NativeEnergy.com</a> <b>23</b>	How will your church celebrate Earth Day next month? Invite a guest speaker: <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/speakers">IPLdmv.org/speakers</a> and find worship resources: <a href="http://InterfaithChesapeake.org/earth-day-sunday">InterfaithChesapeake.org/earth-day-sunday</a> <b>24</b>	Many area faith communities are getting their energy from above! Check out this map of solar congregations in the region, and find resources to help your congregation join them: <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/go-green/solar">IPLdmv.org/go-green/solar</a> <b>25</b>	God's children are coming together to care for Creation. Learn how our Muslim neighbors are going green: <a href="http://bit.ly/greeningcomic">bit.ly/greeningcomic</a> , including using their own "green" calendar during Ramadan: <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/ramadan">IPLdmv.org/ramadan</a> <b>26</b>	At 8:30 pm, join hundreds of millions of people around the world who will be switching off all lights for one hour to commit to global climate action and more mindful energy use: <a href="http://EarthHour.org">EarthHour.org</a> <b>27</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 28</b> Pray: "God of wilderness and water, guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance ..." - Revised Common Lectionary	Yesterday at sundown, our Jewish neighbors began the counting of the Omer, marking the seven weeks between Pesach and Shavuot. They'll be counting mindfully, just as we are, with a "Climate Omer" calendar: <a href="http://IPLdmv.org/omer">IPLdmv.org/omer</a> <b>29</b>	Consider the gifts given to you. Pray about how you are called to use your time, talent, passion, and treasure to care for our common home. <b>30</b>	Talk with your family and community members about your Lenten Creation care journey. What ideas do you have to continue your stewardship into the Easter season? <b>31</b>  <b>APRIL</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday 1</b> Today we remember Jesus's last supper with his disciples and his prayers in the garden of Gethsemane. Following Jesus' example, take time today to pray outdoors, remembering all who suffer.	<b>Good Friday 2</b> Jesus made a willing sacrifice, but too many of our communities are forced to be "sacrifice zones," where health is sacrificed for profit by our dirty fossil fuel economy. Read more: <a href="http://UCC.org/breathtothepeople">UCC.org/breathtothepeople</a>	<b>Holy Saturday 3</b> "Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning." - Lam. 3:22-23a Take a walk and notice signs of new life and resurrection in your neighborhood.

**4 Easter Sunday** "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to Godself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace by the blood of his cross." - Colossians 1:19-20

"The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout Creation by his universal Lordship" - Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

Trusting in the words of Philippians 1:6, "that the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion," take time to give thanks for the changes of heart and habit you have taken on since Lent began, and continue to live out your call to Creation stewardship with the hope of the resurrection always in your heart!



Take some time today to reflect on all of the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the earth and with all life. Conclude your Lenten Creation care practice by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life.