
Creation Care & Spiritual Practice

— Growing in love of God, the
Earth, and our neighbors —

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. (BCP pg 827)

Opening Question

How does your faith already impact the way you think about the natural world and environmental concerns?

Called to Climate Care - Nature in Scripture

Genesis 1-2

- God created this world and called it good
- Question of what it means for humans to have “dominion” over the rest of creation

Job 38-40

- Celebrating the power and majesty of God through the wonders of nature

Jeremiah 4

- Listening to the cries of the Earth in the prophetic tradition
- An undoing of creation - human actions can have devastating implications
- Resource for reflection during our time of climate crisis

Called to Climate Care - Our Episcopal Tradition

Creation & the Eucharist

- All Eucharistic prayer, but especially Prayer C and our EOW prayers begin by offering thanksgiving for God's role in creation
- Change from earlier Eucharistic prayers focused on sin and atonement

Prayers and Thanksgivings

- We have prayers for the natural order - like the one we opened with! - included in the BCP

Baptismal Covenant

- Considering our baptismal promises to "seek and serve Christ" in our neighbors and respect the dignity of every human person in light of climate change

Creation & Our Spiritual Lives - Sources of Inspiration

Learning to love God more deeply through creation

- Not a new phenomenon - think St. Francis as one big example
- Becoming more mindful of how we encounter God in nature
- Contemporary resources treating activities like gardening or watching a sunset as opportunities for prayer and worship (see handout)

How have you experienced God in creation or incorporated the natural world into your own spiritual practices?

Creation & Our Spiritual Lives - Life-giving Disciplines

As with all spiritual practices, we start small and can grow into bigger changes with our sustainability efforts. Should we take something on for Easter?

- This formation series is a great first step!

Other resources to consider:

- [Bright Action/TEC](#) - way to take stock of your environmental impact and take next steps as a community - might be surprised by what you learn
- Advocacy - [Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) and [Action in Montgomery](#) are advocating for climate related legislation in Maryland

How have you already incorporated meaningful action for sustainability into your life? What would you like to learn more about?

Closing Prayer