

## **April 21: Community Action for Environmental Justice: “Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an everflowing stream.” Amos 5:24**

In The Episcopal Church’s Baptismal Covenant, we promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves,” and to “strive for justice and peace among all peoples, loving our neighbors as ourselves.” These promises reflect the mandate we see throughout Holy Scripture to be active, engaged participants in this world, seeking and serving God’s kingdom whenever and however we can. St. James’s Care for Creation team lives into these promises by advocating for environmental justice. We know that faithfully responding to climate change and ensuring a future where all created beings are able to thrive means working with people and institutions outside our immediate St. James’ community. And, we have also learned that when we build relationships through our work for environmental justice, we can discover renewed hope and deepened joy in our collective action.

### **Contemplation**

- Spend some time with the prophetic books in the Hebrew Bible or the Book of Revelation in the New Testament and consider the images of how the earth suffers when humans act in sinful ways, and is renewed when justice is restored
- Read our [Baptismal Covenant](#) and consider how environmental justice work might intersect with our baptismal promises - particularly when we consider that communities with the fewest resources are often the most impacted by climate change
- Think the last time you worked together with other people and felt proud of what you accomplished and remember what you learned from that experience. Pause to offer gratitude for your experience.
- [A Liturgy for the Labors of a Community](#) (*in the Creation Care Prayer Resources document*)

### **Action**

- Learn more about the organizations St. James’ has partnered with and the resources for education and action they offer by checking out their websites
  - [Interfaith Power & Light DMV](#)
  - [Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#)
  - [Action in Montgomery](#)
  - [Friends of Cabin John Creek](#)
- [Find out who your elected officials are](#), research how they’ve voted on environmental issues, and consider reaching out to them the next time you hear about a piece of environmental legislation you think is important.
- Pay attention to your neighborhood listserv or community notices and consider attending a meeting or event related to the environment if you see something posted. If you don’t see anything - consider organizing something like a neighborhood cleanup, documentary film viewing, or environment related bookclub yourself!