

April 28: Promoting Native Plant Life: “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.” (Genesis 1:12)

Focus on God’s creation of plants. In April, plants seem to be giving thanks to God also with their cheerful blooms! Never forget that we are totally and inescapably dependent on plants. Plants are not only the first players in the energy chain because they use the sun’s energy to produce glucose from carbon dioxide and water, but in doing so, they liberate the oxygen that we breathe! And that’s not all! They pump groundwater up from underground aquifers into the sky to form rain, a process you may remember from middle school, called transpiration. Plants are needed to keep our biosphere (life on earth) in balance and right now we are becoming more aware of how vital native plants are to maintaining biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems that will allow all kinds of insects, animals, and yes, human beings(!), to thrive.

Contemplation

- Spend some time in outside in a place that brings you joy, peace, or a sense of connection to God
- Visit local parks every few weeks and note the changes in vegetation as the seasons progress
- [A Liturgy for Gardening](#) (*in the Creation Care Prayer Resources document*)
- [A Liturgy for Walking in the Woods](#) (*in the Creation Care Prayer Resources document*)

Action

- Do an audit of the outdoor spaces at your home or in your community and see if you can spot the invasive species (see the attached list of invasives found in Montgomery County)
- Consider adding more native plants to your yard or garden (see the attached flyers)
- Learn more about helpful plants and insects through the [UMD Extension](#) resources
- Learn about the [Homegrown National Park](#) movement and consider working together with your neighbors to increase biodiversity in your community (here’s a [guide](#) to getting started!)