



Earth Care Reflection - Action

These resources were originally provided by the PC(USA) Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), which walks with people in adopting sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. However, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate. To turn this tide, we must commit to walking gently on God's Earth. **Try these quick, easy activities!** (Visit saintphilip.net/peacemaking.html for a version of this handout with live links.)

Read Psalm 51:1. Consider these questions: In the past year where has our congregation been steadfast love? How have we transgressed against the earth?

Read about the *Green Good News: Christ's Path to Sustainable and Joyful Life*
www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2020/10/12/green-good-news/

Download this guide from the Presbyterian Mission Agency Office at the UN
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/engaging-our-world/> to connect environmental and human health around the world.

Read and reflect on Genesis 2:15–17.

Watch this short video about environmental racism and justice: https://youtu.be/dREtXUij6_c

Read and reflect on Matthew 25:31-46. How might parts of Creation be "the least of these brothers and sisters of mine"?

Consider where you see Christ today. Share this with one person.

Pray: God, show us your people how to honor your gift of Creation. Let us not be selfish with our gift, rather allow us to share as generously with each other as you have shared with us. Amen.

Pray for global action on climate. Read about the November 2022 United Nations global climate talks. www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/climate-change-resources/cop/

Learn more about your personal ecological footprint: www.footprintcalculator.org.

Pray: *God of enough, let us remember those in this world who still have not been able to realize your abundance because we have taken more than what we need. And let that remembering drive us to change. Amen.*

Download *Considering Our Treasure* from PHP and take one of the action steps listed in the study. <https://tinyurl.com/y27szc3z>.

Read and reflect on Isaiah 65:17-25.

Pray: *“For homes, for families, for friends, for food, we’re thankful, Lord. To us you’ve been good! On all who feel scared, sick, hungry, not loved, pour out your rich comfort and peace from above. Amen.”*

Challenge yourself to drink only water. It takes 600 cups of water to produce a single cup of coffee, and 125 cups of water to produce a cup of tea.

Research which items your city or town allows for curbside recycling and share this refresher with your church, family, friends, and coworkers.

Review the Environmental Justice actions taken by the 225th General Assembly (2022): www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2022/08/29/general-assembly-225-in-review/.

Learn where your food comes from. Calculate your food footprint at www.eatlowcarbon.org.

Visit www.pcusa.org/cc to learn more about and consider taking PHP’s Climate Care Challenge.

Read and Reflect on Genesis 1:29.

Pray: *“Creator of the rivers and oceans, who washes us clean and refreshes us daily, help us to be like a cup of cold water to others in your name: refreshing, cleansing, and relieving. Amen”*

Pick up as many pieces of litter as you can and challenge a friend to do the same.

Unplug the chargers for your cell phone and laptop when you leave your home or office today to minimize the energy many electronics and appliances continue to draw power even when they are off.

Take a walk to appreciate the Earth’s natural beauty. Remember why preserving the Earth is crucial for the health of future generations.

Consider environmental injustice impacts using this poster: www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/PHP-Poster-Environmental-Racism.pdf

Read and reflect on Luke 12:48.

Pray: *“In the rising and setting of the sun and the cycles of the seasons, in the patterns of the shining stars, may we remember the goodness of God. Amen.”*

Check your tire pressure. Low tire pressure means high energy/fuel consumption.

Consider a donation to the Presbyterian Tree Fund to offset your carbon use. Visit www.pcusa.org/trees

Download ecoAmerica/Blessed Tomorrow’s info sheets on various climate topics: <https://ecoamerica.org/research/>.

Read and Reflect on Psalm 130. Consider our responsibility to be part of God’s redemption in creation.

Read and reflect on Psalm 8.

Celebrate the animal kingdom by singing along to “A Place in the Choir”:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iP27eatYxE

Take space to acknowledge that while it is easy to be overwhelmed with climate injustice, we do not travel alone.

Download Blessed Tomorrow’s *Let’s Talk* resource to craft your own message to be able to speak friends and family about reducing carbon use.
www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/lets-talk-faith-and-climate

Storytelling is a powerful tool to inspire and engage people. Consider what your climate story is and download this canvas to help you strategize telling it:
<https://www.digitalstorytellers.com.au/the-story-canvas/>

Download the *Holy Discontentment: Lifting Your Voice for Effective Advocacy* resource from the Office of Public Witness to learn more about how to use your voice to create change.
www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/holy-discontentment-advocacy-resource

Remind yourself of the PC(USA)’s policy on engaging with issues of climate change by visiting www.presbyterianmission.org/lordsearthpolicy.

Speak to the powerful. Urge elected officials to support legislation making justice and creation care a priority. Visit <https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/home> to reach out to your representative.

Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35. How can we love one another—and God’s whole world—as Christ has loved us? Write down your commitment to show love to a part of creation today.

For further learning and action

- Support the sustainable living work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program through gifts to the [Hunger Fund H999999](#).
- Become a Climate Change Ambassador: <https://bit.ly/3B769D1>
- Download a poster about sustainability and earth care concerns at www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/php-post-fall-2020/
- Sign up for the Presbyterian Justice and Peace e-newsletter: <https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/164>
- Lead your church in a study on the biblical and theological basis for eco-justice using resources from pcusa.org/environment.
- Find a more complete list of ideas for congregational earth care activities in the Earth Care Congregations guide: pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.
- Become a member of the grassroots organization Presbyterians for Earth Care: presbyearthcare.org.
- Read the Presbyterian Mission blog, Eco-Justice Journey: www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/
- Connect to ecumenical programs: creationjustice.org.
- Stay up to date on public policy concerns through the Office of Public Witness: pcusa.org/washington.

Please visit www.pcusa.org/hunger to learn more about ongoing opportunities for simple living, environmental justice, alleviating poverty, and eliminating root causes of hunger.