

Lenten Creation Care 2023

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.

Compiled from many sources by...



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>FEBRUARY 22</p> <p>Ash Wednesday <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>23</p> <p><i>“Make me to know your ways, oh Lord; teach me your paths.”</i> - Psalm 25:4</p> <p>The path to climate justice passes through every other struggle we face. Learn more at Intersectional Environmentalists.com</p>	<p>24</p> <p>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>25</p> <p>Join the Center for Spirituality in Nature at 1 pm for a contemplative walk in Turkey Run Park along the Potomac River today, or take your own walk with their guide: centerforspiritualityinnature.org</p>
<p>Talk with your church about ordering “eco palms” for Palm Sunday. They help improve workers’ living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/10: EcoPalms.org</p> <p>26</p>	<p>We are called to care for all Creation. Learn how native plants can bless our local ecosystems and heal the natural world: bit.ly/nativeplants-dougtallamy</p> <p>27</p>	<p>The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 offers new incentives for energy efficiency. Use Rewiring America’s IRA savings tool to see how much your household can save: bit.ly/ra-ira-calculator</p> <p>28</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p> <p>Neighbors are advocating for climate action locally through Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions hubs in several Northern Virginia counties. Join them: faithforclimate.org</p>	<p>The Inflation Reduction Act provides new funding for houses of worship to become more energy efficient. Use National IPL’s resource page to learn what your congregation is eligible for! bit.ly/ipl_iraresources</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for generations. Try eating vegetarian today and check out Oxfam’s Eat for Good resource online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Learn about the Indigenous peoples of the land where you live, work, and pray (native-land.ca) and practice acknowledging whose land you’re on: creationjustice.org/indigenous</p> <p>4</p>
<p>Weatherize your home and prevent heat (and money) from being wasted! Find project ideas and how-tos: bit.ly/weatherizehome or sign up for a home energy check-up: Leap-VA.org/services</p> <p>5</p>	<p>How can your church community help repair our climate? Join with other communities called by many traditions to this sacred work & flock together with other “green sheep” through IPL-DMV: bit.ly/iplsignup</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Consider composting what’s left at home or get table scraps picked up: CompostCrew.com, VeteranCompost.com, KeyCompost.com</p> <p>7</p>	<p>International Women’s Day 8</p> <p>Too often, women aren’t part of critical climate decisions. On this International Women’s Day, reflect on the necessity of gender equality to solving the climate crisis: bit.ly/womenclimateequality</p>	<p>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 shower head: bit.ly/epashowerheads</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Get your energy from above! See if your home is a good candidate for solar and install panels together with neighbors through Solar United Neighbors: ipldmv.org/solarcoops</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Purchase locally-grown food this weekend. Walk to a farmers’ market or join a community-supported agriculture group: LocalHarvest.org, or sign up to receive rescued produce weekly: HungryHarvest.net</p> <p>11</p>

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<p>What can you do about climate change? Talk about it. Listen to Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's talk to New York Ave Presbyterian Church about the power of opening climate conversations: bit.ly/HayhoeInterview 12</p>	<p>Is your local stream clean enough for baptism? mywaterway.epa.gov Pray: "God of sacred waters, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. May we be a blessing to Your waters." 13</p>	<p>"God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." - Gen. 2:15 14</p> <p>Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors: bit.ly/gavictorygardens</p>	<p>Care for Creation and support clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels: GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest and choosing a bank that aligns with your values: greenamerica.org/better-banking 15</p>	<p>How can you and your community shift to reusables, compost, and reduce waste? Take Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions' #ZeroWasteCampaign pledge today, and check out ZeroWasteChurch.org 16</p>	<p>Annunciation 17 Over a hundred local faith communities are getting their energy from above! Check out this map of solar congregations across our region, and find resources to help your church join them: ipldmv.org/solar</p>	<p>We are called to care for all creation. Learn how native plants can bless our local ecosystems and heal the natural world: bit.ly/nativeplants-dougallamy 18</p>
<p>"There is a new creation!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17 19</p> <p>Look outside for signs of regeneration in the natural world today. We too can be made new.</p>	<p>Faith leaders are calling for climate justice across the country. Check out the Climate Justice Y'all podcast to learn how our siblings in the south are taking action in their communities. climatejusticeyall.com 20</p>	<p>Wash laundry in cold water this week and hang it up to dry to save energy and money. Read more here: bit.ly/DitchYourDryer 21</p>	<p>God's children are coming together to care for Creation. As our Muslim neighbors begin the holy month of Ramadan tonight, learn how Muslim communities are taking action for our common home: greenmuslims.org 22</p>	<p>"You will be called the repairer of the breach ..." - Isaiah 58:12b 23</p> <p>Take time to repair something that you might otherwise have discarded and replaced. Learn about right to repair campaigns: repair.org</p>	<p>As you fast from meat today, consider celebrating Easter and beyond with plant-based meals: StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes BeCreatureKind.org 24</p>	<p>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: EarthHour.org 25</p>
<p>"God of grace and salvation, today we open our hearts to the pain of our planet." 26</p> <p>Reflect on the role the church has played in the degradation of Creation; consider reciting this litany: bit.ly/envconfession</p>	<p>Green grass lawns are not so "green." Learn how to cultivate grounds that are good for people, plants, and creatures at home: bit.ly/greenergrounds and at church: bit.ly/sacredchurchgrounds 27</p>	<p>How can we minimize our plane and car travel, and the pollution it causes? Fund a project that helps offset: NativeEnergy.com 28</p>	<p>How will your church celebrate Earth Day on April 22? Invite a guest speaker: IPLdmv.org/speakers and find worship resources: InterfaithChesapeake.org/materials, bit.ly/cjmeearthday 29</p>	<p>No community is disposable. Learn about how environmental racism has enabled "sacrifice zones," and how we can stand with our neighbors fighting for their rights: bit.ly/ted_sacrificezones 30</p>	<p>All are called to repair our climate. In April, our Jewish neighbors will gather for Passover seders to retell their story. Listen to these Jewish climate songs for the journey: dayenu.org/songs 31</p>	<p>APRIL 1 Is your stove burning methane gas? With more evidence that gas stoves pollute our air and climate, it's time to turn away from burning: bit.ly/gasstoves</p>
<p>Palm Sunday 2 "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</p>	<p>Caring for creation includes responsibly disposing of electronics. Organize "E-cycling" for your congregation to dispose of old phones, tablets, computers, and TVs responsibly: e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler 3</p>	<p>Consider the gifts given to you. Pray about how you are called to use your time, talent, passion, and treasure to care for our neighbors and our common home. 4</p>	<p>Talk with your family and community about your Lenten Creation care journey. What ideas do you have to continue your stewardship into the Easter season? 5</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday 6 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.</p>	<p>Good Friday 7 "At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two ... the earth shook, and the rocks were split." - Matt 27:51 Contemplate the destruction already caused by climate change through wildfires, floods, and stronger storms.</p>	<p>Holy Saturday 8 "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.</p>

9 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.