

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NIV

grow

deeper
in Christ

Caring for Creation...

THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY we have been intrinsically connected to and reliant upon all of God’s creation. In Genesis we read that God created the heavens and the earth and all that fills them. God delights in creation and calls it “good.” God also gave dominion over this good creation to humanity. As Christians we affirm that this world is not our possession it belongs to God.

Psalms 24:1-2 proclaims, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.” We have been entrusted with the welfare and prosperity of this good creation.

As we deepen our understanding of creation care and good dominion, we must recognize that we are part of God’s creation, and that part of caring for creation is to affirm its worth and protect its beauty even beyond its usefulness for human sustenance. For we read in Psalm 19:1-4 that, “The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words. Their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”

All of God’s creation reveals and worships its creator; our stewardship is an act of glorifying God.

As people who are charged by God to care for creation, we are to do so in such a way that it can continue to sustain human life and proclaim the glory of God. As people who pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” we join creation in actively preparing for the newness to come.

To this end we encourage:

- engagement in environmental advocacy, not only to proclaim the goodness of God’s creation, but to also ensure the health of all people through a healthy environment.

- reducing waste through recycling and composting, and spend time learning about the waste management systems in your area.
- use of carpools, public transportation, and non-polluting forms of travel where available.
- working to strengthen the local ecology through hands-on activities such as trash pickup and tree planting.
- promoting sustainable food systems by leading your household, workplace, campus or church to purchase food that is locally sourced, organic, and/or cultivated at a fair wage.
- reflecting on the burden of climate change by doing an inventory of your carbon footprint, or by going on a “carbon fast” as a Lenten discipline
- going on a nature walk with children and appreciating creation from their perspective (pick up rocks, leaves, flowers, etc.)
- spending time in God’s creation praying specific creation verses:

Scripture

Old Testament

Genesis 1:1, 31; 2:15
Leviticus 25:2-5, 23-24; 26:3-4
Numbers 35:33-34
Deuteronomy 5:14; 10:14; 20:19
1 Chronicles 29:11
2 Chronicles 7:13-14
Job 12:7-10; 26:7-9; 41:11
Psalm 19:1-4; 24:1-2; 33:5-6; 65:9-13; 89:11; 95:3-5; 96:11-13; 97:6; 104:10-14, 24-25, 29-30; 107:33-34; 145:9, 13, 17; 148:1-10
Isaiah 24:4-6; 41:18-20; 51:3; 55:12
Jeremiah 2:7; 3:2-3; 12:4, 11
Hosea 4:1-3

New Testament

Matthew 10:29
John 1:3
Acts 3:21
Romans 1:20; 8:19-22
1 Corinthians 10:26
Ephesians 1:10
Colossians 1:15-17, 20
Hebrews 1:2-3
Revelation 11:18

May we all respond to God’s call to exercise good dominion over the non-human creation with faithful stewardship and care as we worship our Creator.

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