



JAEI

April 2019 Environmental Prayer Diary

(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

- During Lent – JAEI encourages you to take part in the Less Plastics for Lent Campaign

As we reflect on the month behind us, let us all lift up 2 tragic events:

1. Cyclone Idai

“Comfort, comfort my people, says the Lord” Is. 40:1

Cyclone Idai wreaked havoc on Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in mid-March, leaving a trail of devastation, injuries and death. Untold people have been left with no shelter or food. Health is a major worry and the risk of outbreaks of cholera and typhoid is high, especially as there are reports that water pipelines to the city of Beira have been cut. Infrastructure such as roads, telecommunication and power have been destroyed. Food shortages are inevitable as the cyclone hit just before crops could be harvested and now the water-logged soil will prevent crop planting for the foreseeable future.

A prayer for all communities affected.

*Shelter in the storm, light in the darkness,
hope even in a living hell,*

God be with our sisters and brothers

in Mozambique, in Malawi, in Zimbabwe.

Behind the numbing numbers are the names of loved ones.

Behind the staggering statistics are life stories still to be told.

God, help us be with our sisters and brothers – gather us close

so we open our spirits and share. Your world is our global neighbourhood. Help us forge the rain-driven path together, for only together can we weather the storms.

Amen



Continue to prayer for:

- The repose of the souls of those who died and comfort for family and friends
- Those injured
- Those who have lost everything and now have to rebuild their lives
- Those involved in rescue efforts
- Those providing emergency aid
- Those who will be making decisions regarding the future of the residents of the affected countries
- The environmental disaster affecting food supply and ecosystems capacity

2. Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302

Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 was a scheduled international passenger flight from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Nairobi, Kenya on 10 March 2019.


The flight crashed just six minutes after takeoff, killing all 157 people aboard. Many of those that lost their lives were *en route* to provide support to, and participate in, the 4th UN Environment Assembly (the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.) They


included UN staff, youth delegates, seasoned scientists, members of academia and other partners - all of whom were passionate about their Planet and excited to share their stories and contribute to plans for a better future.



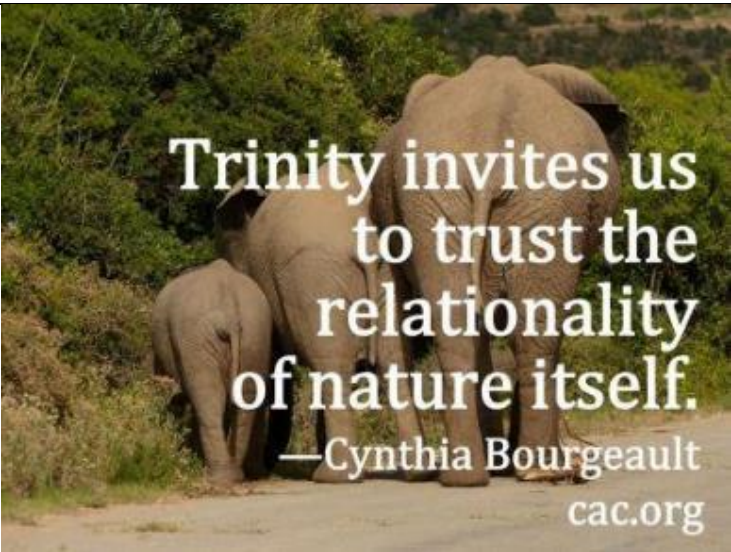


Pray for:

- The repose of the souls who have died
- Support and comfort for family, friends and colleagues
- That others will be called to continue the important work of those who have left us.



<p>Monday</p>	<p>1</p>	 <p>April Voëls' Day.</p> <p>Think Birds.</p> <p>BirdLife WORLD WILDLIFE FUND Every Conservation Wins</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>A Prayer during Lent</p> <p>We pray for all those who hunger: through the grace of God may they know that they are not forgotten. May they find the strength and support that they need to lift themselves out of poverty.</p> <p><i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>We pray for our parish community: that we may be moved by God's love to reach out to others in our turn, especially to those who are poor, so that no one may feel abandoned, forgotten or alone.</p> <p><i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>We pray for the Church throughout the world: that she may be a sign of God's love for all people and a beacon of hope for all who are in need.</p> <p><i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>We pray for world leaders: that the Holy Spirit may guide them to speak out against hunger and poverty in our world and take action to build a better future.</p> <p><i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>We pray for all people who are excluded, stigmatised or ignored: that they may be made to feel welcome and able to participate in society. May our eyes be opened to the dignity of every person, created and loved by God.</p> <p><i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>We pray for the Church: that together we may be inspired to transform the world out of love for God and one another.</p> <p><i>Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions - is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."</p> <p>1 John 2:15-17</p>




<p>Thursday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Role of the faith in tackling environmental challenges expounded at UN Environment Assembly</p> <p>On the sidelines of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, top UN officials, religious leaders and environmental experts underlined the role of faith communities in tackling climate change, a phenomenon that threatens to annihilate humanity.</p> <p>The WCC and its African partner, the All Africa Conference of Churches had organized a session titled “Eco-Just Churches and Communities: Models for Living with Justice and Sustainability.”</p> <p>Rev Norman Tendis, (a World Council of Churches consultant), sadly killed in the Ethiopian air disaster, was due to elaborate on a Roadmap for Congregations, Communities and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice which he had authored.</p> <p>“He had been advocating for economic and ecological justice. A credible voice at the UN, he had been saying that we must practice what we preach in our churches. That’s why the road map to ecological justice was his key passion,” said Athena Peralta, WCC programme executive for economic and ecological justice.</p> <p>Rev. Arnold Temple, president of the All Africa Conference of Churches, warned that the world had become ecologically bankrupt, while calling for urgent action to tackle climate change.</p> <p>The effects were impactful, he said, while highlighting increased droughts, landslides and floods which caused the deaths of thousands.</p> <p>“The need to act is now. We are calling on our churches to adopt the role of being a blue community,” said Temple. “It has been estimated that by the year 2050, there will be more plastics in our rivers and oceans than fish.”</p> <p>Canon Rachel Mash, environment co-ordinator of Green Anglicans, an environmental network of the Anglican Church in southern Africa, said from the smallest village to the largest city in Africa, there were churches and other faith groups.</p> <p>“Can the spiritual power of the churches and other faiths around the world be harnessed to combat climate change? What is the potential of the faith groups?” posed Mash.</p> <p>“They are in touch with local cultures and local leadership. They have the infrastructure. They got the potential pool of volunteers and an ethic that calls for transformational actions.”</p> <p><i>The time is now for all People of Faith to act decisively! – what will your action be?</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>5</p>	 <p>“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”</p> <p>– John Bunyan</p>



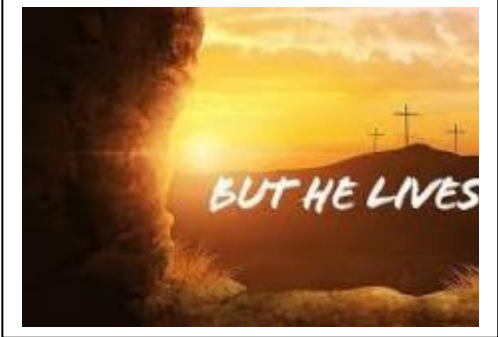
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination <p><i>Pray that this Goal will be reached.</i></p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>World Health Day</p> <p>The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated annually, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as other related organisations.</p>  <p>In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. The World Health Day is seen as an opportunity by the organisation to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. The WHO organizes international, regional and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organisations with interests in public health issues.</p> <p>Prayer: Compassionate God, we lift up the billions of people living in cities around the world. We thank you for the opportunities that come with city dwelling, but pray especially for those living in urban slums, where clean water and are lacking, and where overpopulation and pollution pose health risks. We lift our brothers and sisters up in prayer and ask also that you would open our eyes to see how we might help those around us. Amen</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>8</p>	

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>This Is My Body – God’s Body</p> <p>“As I shared earlier, the prologue to John’s Gospel gives us a wonderful vision of the Christ Mystery. John uses the word <i>Logos</i>, which I take to mean blueprint. It is the inner pattern of reality, revealed in Jesus and in creation. Let’s take a closer look:</p> <p><i>In the beginning was the blueprint. The blueprint was with God. The blueprint was God. And all things came to be through this inner plan.</i> [The inner reality of God is manifest in the outer material world. That is why we can consider creation to be the <i>Body of God</i>.] <i>No one thing came to be except through this blueprint and plan. All that came to be had life in him.</i> [Now it’s become personalized: in him, in Jesus. So, this great universal mystery since the beginning of time now becomes specific in the body and the person of Jesus. The blueprint has become personified and visible.] <i>And that life was the light of humanity</i> (John 1: 1-3).</p> <p>At the Last Supper, when Jesus held up the bread and spoke the words “This is my Body,” I believe he was speaking not just about the bread right in front of him, but about the whole universe, about everything that is physical, material, and yet also spirit-filled. His assertion and Christians’ repetition resound over all creation before they also settle into one piece of bread to be shared. The bread and wine, and all of creation, seem to believe who and what they are much more readily than humans do. They know they are the Body of Christ, even if many <i>Homo sapiens</i> resist and even deny such a thought. When celebrants speak these sacred words at the altar, they are speaking them to both the bread and the congregation—so they can carry it “to all of creation” (Mark 16:16). As St. Augustine (354–430 CE) preached, we must feed the Body of Christ to the people of God until they know that they are what they eat!</p> <p><i>We also are the Body of Christ, as is all of the universe. The Apostle Paul used a perfect metaphor: “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. . . . Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it”</i> (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27). I love to think of every flowing stream, every waterfall, and every river as “baptizing” the physical universe, washing away its <i>inability</i> to know how glorious it is. (Read a few Mary Oliver poems if you want to get the same message.) “</p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</i> www.cac.org</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>“Sit and be still until in the time of no rain, you hear beneath the dry wind’s commotion in the trees the sound of flowing water among the rocks, a stream unheard before, and you are where breathing is prayer.”</p> <p>Wendell Berry</p>



<p>Thursday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p><i>SDG Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species <p><i>Time is running out for this Goal. Pray that there will be renewed efforts to reach this Goal.</i></p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“In nature, nothing exists alone.”</p> <p><i>Rachel Carson</i> 1962</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>“The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left. “</p> <p><i>Isaiah 24:4-6</i></p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p><i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>The tradition of palm branches on Palm Sunday actually originates with the Jewish festival of Sukkoth, also called the Festival of the Tabernacles or Booths, which was probably the most popular holiday among the Jews in the first century. In the observance of Sukkoth, worshippers processed through Jerusalem and in the Temple, waving in their right hands something called a <i>lulab</i>, which was a bunch of leafy branches made of willow, myrtle and palm. As they waved these branches in that procession, the worshippers recited words from Psalm 118, the psalm normally used at Sukkoth. Among these words were “Save us, we beseech you, O Lord.” Save us in Hebrew is <i>hosianna</i> or <i>hosanna</i>. This is typically followed by “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. (Ps 118:25–6).”</p> <p><i>Lord, as we remember how Christ the King entered Jerusalem to the sound of joyful shouts, increase our faith and listen to our prayers, so that we may praise you every day, by living always in him.</i></p> <p><i>For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</i></p>	

<p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p><i>Holy week</i> We pray for Justice God of Mercy We pray for those who work in law enforcement in our community and around our nation and the world. We pray for their safety and well-being. We pray for those who are incarcerated and their families, for those who commit crimes because of drug and/alcohol addictions. We pray for lawyers and judges and our criminal justice system that all may be treated fairly and with dignity. We pray for those who are imprisoned in mind, body or soul.</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p><i>Holy week</i> We pray for the Homeless and Refugees Passionate God We pray for those in our community, city, country and the world who have no place to call home. We prayer for those living in shelters. We pray for victims of domestic violence, poverty and those who suffer from fear and despair associated with homelessness. We pray for migrants, refugees and victims of war. We pray for protection for these people as well as for personal transformation. We pray for climate change refugees. We pray too that effective responses to climate change may halt the flooding, drought, and natural disasters that leads to migration of the poor. We give thanks for all those working tirelessly to alleviate the suffering. We pray that they may be strengthened and that the necessary funds will be available to them to carry out their work.</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p><i>Holy week</i> We pray for the Environment and Earth Gracious God, We praise and thank you for the beauty of Creation and for the gifts that it provides us. We pray for our earth. We pray for those who make choices that harm the earth. We pray for those working to protect the environment. We ask forgiveness for not being good stewards of your Creation, and pray that we would seek solidarity with the Earth and all of Creation.</p>	

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p><i>Holy week – Maundy Thursday</i></p> <p>We pray for those who hunger and thirst</p> <p>Merciful God, We pray for the hungry in our community and in our world and pray that they will receive the help that they need. We pray for Soup Kitchens and Food Banks and the volunteers who work tirelessly to bring about relief of hunger pains. We pray for those who donate food to these organisations. We pray for poverty, the poor and the many challenges they face. We pray for families with young children We pray for Social Workers that they may have wisdom and empathy in dealing with those affected by poverty. We pray for policy makers and for an end to the systemic reasons for poverty.</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Good Friday</p> <p>Loving Father, as on this solemn day we bow at the foot of the Cross, may the love of Christ that was manifested there, stream into the hearts of all who serve you, so challenging and subduing all our desires, and winning from us that response which is your will for us.</p> <p><i>Leslie Weatherhead</i> – adapted</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>We pray for peace</p> <p>All powerful God, We pray for those who have lost their lives in conflict. We pray for those who serve in conflict situations at present. We pray for those who have been injured both in body and mind in conflict. We pray for an end to gang violence in our cities and towns. We pray for communities who choose violence over peaceful negotiations. We pray for our Government and governments around the World to choose peaceful solutions to disagreements. We pray for policy makers and peacemakers.</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>Lord God, You loved this world so much, That you gave your one and only Son, That we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace On Easter Sunday, and every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness For your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace And tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.</p> <p><i>Rachel Marie Stone</i></p>	

Monday

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Earth Day

2019 Theme – “Protect Our Species!”

Nature’s gifts to our planet are the millions of species that we know and love, and many more that remain to be discovered. Unfortunately, human beings have irrevocably upset the balance of nature and, as a result, the world is facing the greatest rate of extinction since we lost the dinosaurs more than 60 million years ago. But unlike the fate of the dinosaurs, the rapid extinction of species in our world today is the result of human activity.



The unprecedented global destruction and rapid reduction of plant and wildlife populations are directly linked to causes driven by human activity: climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides to name a few. The impacts are far reaching.

If we do not act now, extinction may be humanity’s “most enduring legacy. All living things have an intrinsic value, and each plays a unique role in the complex web of life.

The good news is that the rate of extinctions can still be slowed, and many of our declining, threatened and endangered species can still recover if we work together now to build a united global movement of consumers, voters, educators, faith leaders, and scientists to demand immediate action.



Earth Day Network is asking people to join the ‘Protect our Species’ campaign:

- Educate and raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences of this phenomenon.
- Achieve major policy victories that protect broad groups of species as well as individual species and their habitats.
- Build and activate a global movement that embraces nature and its values.
- Encourage individual actions such as adopting plant-based diet and stopping pesticide and herbicide use.



A Prayer for Earth Day

Creator God, let me always be in awe of Your wonderful works of creation. I don’t want to take the details of the world You created for me for granted. Everything around me is wonderfully complex and splendid. You, Lord, are both an Engineer and an Artist that built a world to perfectly sustain life. But you didn’t stop there. You also made immense details that please all of our senses as well. There are beautiful things to see, sounds to hear, textures to feel, yummy food to taste, and even delightful aromas to bring us enjoyment. Thank you for the details of life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>God of Wonders</p> <p>Lord of all creation Of the water, earth and sky The Heavens are Your Tabernacle Glory to the Lord on high</p> <p>God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy</p> <p>Lord of Heaven and Earth Lord of Heaven and Earth</p> <p>Early in the morning I will celebrate the light And when I stumble into darkness I will call Your name by night</p> <p>God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy</p> <p>Lord of Heaven and Earth Lord of Heaven and Earth</p> <p>Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth.</p> <p>Chris Tomlin</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>A Child's Prayer</p> <p>Dear Jesus, teach me to be kind and gentle towards all animals. Thank you for my dog and all the fun we have together. Thank you that he knows when I am sad and makes me happy again. Please bless him and keep him safe. Help me to take care of him every day. Amen</p> <p>Jason (Age 6)</p>	

International Penguin Day



“It’s practically impossible to look at a penguin and feel angry.”
Joe Moore

Penguins are some of the most adorable and lovable creatures and have some of the best durability that’s known among the animal kingdom.

World Penguin Day is celebrated annually as an education initiative that encourages people to learn more about these much adored, flightless birds, their environment, and how important they are to the ecosystem




There are 18 penguin species world-wide, of which the African penguin is the only one endemic to the African continent. Various factors like egg and guano harvesting, overfishing, marine pollution and climate change have caused a dramatic decline in the population from an estimated one million breeding pairs in the early 1900s to a current estimate of less than 23 000 breeding pairs. The species is currently regarded as vulnerable to extinction and classified as endangered on the red list of threatened species.



Several management actions have been implemented to conserve the African penguins, including formal protection of breeding colonies by converting areas with known breeding sites into nature reserves and national parks; prohibiting the collection of guano and eggs; establishing marine protected areas where fishing is prohibited; ongoing research to monitor population trends in relation to prey availability and disease outbreaks; active management of population sizes of predators; artificial care of abandoned chicks, providing artificial nests and rehabilitating sick birds.

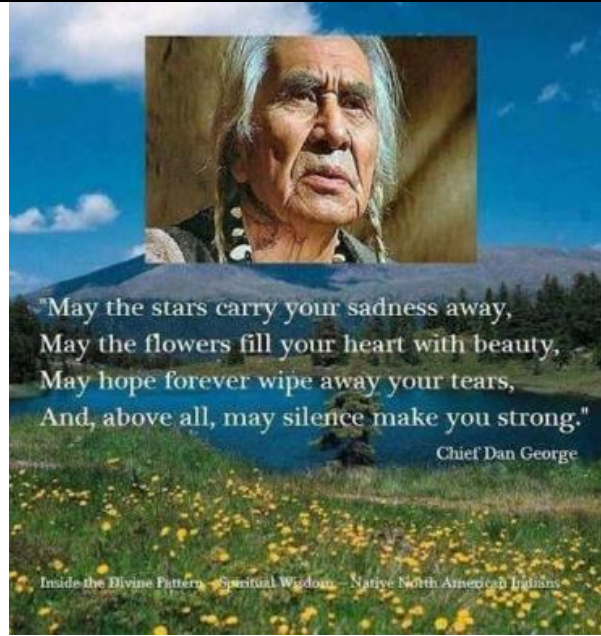
Pray:

- for all the Organisations who care for these lovable birds
- for research programmes
- for wise decisions regarding fishing quotas and habitat management

<p>Friday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Climate Change and Social Justice</p> <p>"If human beings were to treat one another's personal property the way they treat the natural environment, we would view that behaviour as anti-social and illegal. We would expect legal sanctions and even compensation. When will we learn that to commit a crime against the natural world is also a sin?"</p> <p>"The way we respond to the natural environment is directly reflects the way we treat human beings. The willingness to exploit the environment is revealed in the willingness to permit avoidable human suffering. So the survival of the natural environment is also the survival of ourselves. When we will understand that a crime against nature is a crime against ourselves and sin against God?"</p>  <p><i>His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>"A sense of the universe, a sense of the all, the nostalgia which seizes us when confronted by nature, beauty, music - these seem to be an expectation and awareness of a Great Presence."</p> <p><i>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin</i></p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Loving Father, you have given humankind matchless gifts of skill and ingenuity. Help us now, in this time of crisis, to pool all our resources and work together, in your Name, to save your world from the dire consequences of our ignorance, greed and folly.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Insects comprise two-thirds of all life on earth. They pollinate flowering plants, decompose waste, control pests and serve as prey for millions of other species. They may be small and hard to notice, but their global decline has become so serious that even city dwellers are reporting the windscreen phenomenon, when driving long distances no longer leads to bug-spattered windscreens. Now scientists monitoring the numbers of flying insects in German nature reserves have recorded a 75% drop since 1989. They attribute the decline to the destruction of insect habitat and the rise of agricultural pesticide use. Scientists in Puerto Rico also discovered in its rainforests a 98% drop in insect biomass since the 1970s and an 80% decline in the leaf canopy. These trends were matched by declines in lizards, frogs and birds that rely on invertebrates for food. With forest temperature having risen by 2°C. in the last 30 years, the scientists believe climate change to be the primary cause of this collapse. Population Matters comments: "Time is running out to save the little things that run the planet's life support system."</p>  <p><i>Carefully and prayerfully consider this statement.</i></p>

Tuesday

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