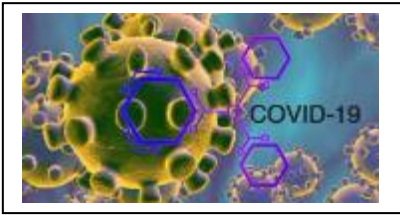




# JAEI

## April 2020 Environmental Prayer Diary

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



There is not one single person on Planet Earth who will not be affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic – directly or indirectly! Some will, of course, have been infected (the vast majority recovered), but sadly some will be overcome, by the virus. The pandemic has seriously affected the global economy which will have repercussions everywhere for some time to come.

It is known that the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak was in a “wet market” in Wuhan, China. This market was an important hub in the lucrative trade in wildlife – both legal and illegal, in which a variety of animal-derived products and meats are widely available, including pangolins, porcupines, bats and rats. It’s also a market where regulatory, hygiene and welfare standards are rudimentary at best. Some of this trade is legal under Chinese domestic law but the existence of a parallel illegal trade – often within the very same market stall – allows some traders to launder illicit wildlife products into the system. This situation is very difficult to regulate and control.

“Wet markets” across the country selling wild species have since been closed down by the Chinese Government. Illegal consumption of or trade in wildlife will be severely punished, as will hunting or transporting wild animals for eating. Cracking down on wildlife trade and markets and making them permanently illegal is one way to reduce the number of zoonoses, in addition to providing more protection for the wildlife at risk.

**Coronaviruses are zoonotic**, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. **These animals alone do not cause the transfer of the coronavirus to humans. COVID-19 (as well as SARS) was transferred by human interference with the animals. The capturing, slaughtering, selling/trading, and consumption of wildlife is to blame, not the animals themselves.**

“Humans and nature are part of one connected system, and nature provides the food, medicine, water, clean air and many other benefits that have allowed people to thrive,” said Doreen Robinson, Chief of Wildlife at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). “Yet like all systems, we need to understand how it works so that we don’t push things too far and face increasingly negative consequences.”

UNEP’s [Frontiers 2016 Report on Emerging Issues of Environment Concern](#) shows zoonoses threaten economic development, animal and human well-being, and ecosystem integrity. In the past few years, several emerging zoonotic diseases made world headlines as they caused, or threatened to cause, major pandemics. These include Ebola, bird flu, Rift Valley fever, West Nile virus and Zika virus disease.

From the point of view of the environmental community, it is important to address the multiple and often interacting threats to ecosystems and wildlife to prevent zoonoses from emerging, including habitat loss and fragmentation, illegal trade, pollution, invasive species and, increasingly, climate change.

China addressing the illegal wildlife trade will be one of the few positives emerging from the global pandemic may yet prove to be an important moment in the attempts to address the illegal wildlife trade worldwide.

.... And now is the time for us – the Stewards of God’s Creation to step up our game in ensuring that wildlife and ecosystems are protected – for us and future generations!

## Beautiful message

(Attributed to Bill Gates)

### **What is the Corona/ Covid-19 Virus Really Teaching us?**

"I'm a strong believer that there is a spiritual purpose behind everything that happens, whether that is what we perceive as being good or being bad.

As I meditate upon this, I want to share with you what I feel the Corona/Covid-19 virus is really doing to us:



1) It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should to. If you don't believe me, just ask Tom Hanks.

2) It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression.

3) It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don't look after our health, we will, of course, get sick.

4) It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet rolls.

5) It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.

6) It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit.

7) It is reminding us that our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another."

8) It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.

9) It is reminding us that the power of freewill is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed, it is difficulties that bring out our true colours.

10) It is reminding us that we can be patient, or we can panic. We can either understand that this type of situation has happened many times before in history and will pass, or we can panic and see it as the end of the world and, consequently, cause ourselves more harm than good.

11) It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn the lesson we are meant to.

12) It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off of shelves. We are sick because our home is sick.

13) It is reminding us that after every difficulty, there is always ease. Life is cyclical, and this is just a phase in this great cycle. We do not need to panic; this too shall pass.

14) Whereas many see the Corona/Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a great corrector\*

It is sent to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not."

(... also watch: *Gravitas* - "How Nature is reclaiming its spaces" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2hNKrfyNw> )

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><b>April Fools' Day</b> is an annual custom on April 1, consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes. The player of the joke or hoax often exposes their action later by shouting "April fools" at the recipient.</p> <p>However, climate change, the destruction of habitats, pollution, poisoning, illegal trade is no practical joke or hoax when it comes to the survival of our birds and many of our bird species are fighting for survival.</p> <p>Today, instead of trying to play a practical joke on someone – do something practical and positive for the survival of our birds!</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that God would calm fears and that His people would be reminded we have a different identity - one of boldness, not of fear. Pray that the church would be a calming presence and radiant light in the face of so much confusion and darkness.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<div data-bbox="683 792 1206 1451" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that we would be people of compassion who intentionally reach out to others in our neighbourhoods and to our family around the world where following Jesus often results in denial of community healthcare, less or no access to medicines and social boycott.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky. Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring. Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life. Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep with rain</p> <p><b>A Ute Indian prayer</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for world leaders as they work with healthcare organisations and the medical community to develop next steps. Pray that all would be united for the common good.</p>

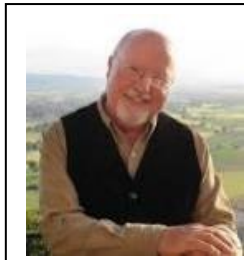
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”</p> <p><b>Isaiah 55.9-11</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray with researchers and biologists as they work to develop a coronavirus vaccine. Pray for wisdom and insight.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<div data-bbox="683 568 1214 987" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray with first-responders around the world who are tasked with triaging, testing, and treating increasing numbers of people. Ask God to give them patience, wisdom and a gentle spirit as they work to navigate fears and offer effective treatment. Hospitals are seeing unprecedented numbers of patients with symptoms of flu</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><i>God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters.' ... God called the dome Sky. (Genesis 1.6, 8)</i></p> <p>We thank you for the air that we breathe and for the ever-changing skies. We give thanks for the rhythm of the seasons, for the warmth of the summer sun and the sharpness of the winter frost. Help us to feel the freshness of the breeze upon our faces and to discern the rainbow of hope that you give us.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray with church leaders as they offer insight and wisdom to their congregations and communities. Ask God to give them opportunities to be voices of reason, clarity and grace.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>“Wonder was the motive that led people to philosophy ... wonder is a kind of desire in knowledge. It is the cause of delight because it carries with it the hope of discovery.”</p> <p><b>Saint Thomas Aquinas</b>  <i>Italian Dominican friar &amp; priest (1225-1274)</i></p> <div data-bbox="1225 1630 1449 1906" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray for the families of the people who have died and for those undergoing treatment. Ask God to comfort the broken-hearted and to strengthen those who are suffering physically and emotionally.</p>

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Look mercifully, dear Lord, upon your world and forgive us for the harm we have done to your creation. Save the nations from the lust for money and power, from hatred and jealousy, and from the worship of material things. Grant that justice may triumph over oppression and that people everywhere may learn to serve you in the peace and freedom of your Kingdom. Amen</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for those whose jobs or hours have been cut due to economic downturn. Pray for parents who are struggling to work and care for their children. Pray that churches would look for ways to reach out to families in their communities to provide for them and show them the love of Christ.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Blessed are you, Lord God. The basin and the towel are signs to us of your Son's servanthood. You have made us partakers of Christ and of one another. As we go forth, give us grace to count others more important than ourselves, to love our enemies, to make peace.</p> <p>Send the Spirit of truth to keep alive in us what Jesus taught and did, that our words may carry his good news, and that our lives may bear the shape of the cross of the One who lives and reigns with You and with the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.</p> <p>from <b>A Footwashing Liturgy</b> by Reggie M. Kidd.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that God's people would be unified as one Church, and that we would look to the lives and faith of our persecuted brothers and sisters as we navigate fear and the unknown ... that we would look to them for guidance and for hope.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<div data-bbox="703 1361 1190 1850" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that we as God's people would be reminded of our hope in Christ and the truth that our Saviour who died and rose for us has already overcome the world. Pray that we would be people who read His Word and take both His call and His promises to head and heart.</p>

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Sovereign of the universe, wellspring of life, fountain of redemption, we praise you. With sun and moon, winds and rain, light and darkness, we glorify you. With rivers and seas, wild beasts and cattle, and all humanity, we magnify you. This night, in the resurrection of your Son, you have revealed the destiny of all creation - life in your mercy. Glory, glory, glory, to you our God.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for those involved in the fight against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife – people who put their lives on the line each day. Pray for all those involved in conservation efforts.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<div data-bbox="689 488 1203 1039" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Praise to you, God of power and might, for the resurrection of your Son, the first fruits of all who will be raised. He is the certainty that all the universe shall be raised up as your new creation. Fill us with your life that we may walk in the way of Christ as joyful servants of the earth.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that we would be people of compassion who intentionally reach out to others in our neighbourhoods and to our family around the world where following Jesus often results in denial of community healthcare, less or no access to medicines and social boycott.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<div data-bbox="663 1469 1225 1904" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for world leaders as they work with healthcare organizations and the medical community to develop next steps. Pray that all would be united for the common good.</p>


<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Let us pray for trees, plants, crops, and forests.  Let us pray for water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds.  Let us pray for air, wind, climate and weather.  Let us pray for sun, clean energy and mitigation of climate change.  Let us pray for animals, especially endangered species.  Let us pray for humankind.  Let us pray for recycling and moderate personal consumption.  Let us pray for proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste.  Let us pray for Earth and unity.</p> <p>Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.  Amen.</p> <p><b><i>The Diocese of Newcastle in the Church of England</i></b></p> <p><b><i>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</i></b>  Pray with researchers and biologists as they work to develop a coronavirus vaccine.  Pray for wisdom and insight.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Environment</b></p> <p>Caring God,  we thank you for your gifts in creation:  for our world,  <b>the heavens tell of your glory;</b>  for our land, its beauty and its resources,  <b>for the rich heritage we enjoy.</b></p> <p>We pray:  for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,  <b>that we may use your gifts responsibly;</b>  for those who work on the land and sea, and in industry,  <b>that they may enjoy the fruits of their labours  and marvel at your creation;</b>  for artists, scientists and visionaries,  <b>that through their work we may see creation afresh.</b></p> <p>We thank you for giving us life;  <b>For all who enrich our experience.</b></p> <p>We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.  <b>Give us reverence for life in your world.</b></p> <p>We thank you for your redeeming love;  <b>May your word and sacrament  Strengthen us to love as you love us.</b></p> <p>God, Creator, bring us new life.  <b>Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.</b></p> <p>Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.</p> <p><b><i>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</i></b>  Pray that we would be people of compassion who intentionally reach out to others in our neighbourhoods and to our family around the world where following Jesus often results in denial of community healthcare, less or no access to medicines and social boycott.</p>

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Daniel 3:52-63</b></p> <p><sup>52</sup> “Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, and to be praised and highly exalted forever; And blessed is your glorious, holy name, and to be highly praised and highly exalted forever. <sup>53</sup> Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, and to be extolled and highly glorified forever. <sup>54</sup> Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne on the cherubim, and to be praised and highly exalted forever. <sup>55</sup> Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, and to be extolled and highly exalted forever. <sup>56</sup> Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, and to be sung and glorified forever.</p> <p><sup>57</sup> “Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. <sup>58</sup> Bless the Lord, you heavens; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. <sup>59</sup> Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. <sup>60</sup> Bless the Lord, all you waters above the heavens; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. <sup>61</sup> Bless the Lord, all you powers of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. <sup>62</sup> Bless the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. <sup>63</sup> Bless the Lord, stars of heaven; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray with first-responders around the world who are tasked with triaging, testing, and treating increasing numbers of people. Ask God to give them patience, wisdom and a gentle spirit as they work to navigate fears and offer effective treatment. Hospitals are seeing unprecedented numbers of patients with symptoms of flu.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>The Univocity of Being</b></p> <p><i>Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he [sic] shares existence, with the plants he shares life, with the animals he shares sensation, and with the angels he shares intelligence. Thus all things are transformed in Christ since in the fullness of his nature he embraces some part of every creature. —Bonaventure</i></p> <p>In the stories of his life, St. Francis is quoted as talking to or about larks, lambs, rabbits, pheasants, falcons, cicadas, waterfowl, bees, the famous wolf of Gubbio, pigs whom he praised for generously giving their bodies for our food, and hooked fish that he tried to throw back into the water whenever possible. He addresses inanimate creation too, as if it were indeed ensouled. His “Canticle of the Creatures” includes fire, wind, water, Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and, of course, “our Sister Mother Earth” herself. He even told the friars to only cut down part of a tree for their needs so that it could sprout again.</p> <p>So-called “nature mysticism” was a worthy entranceway for Francis, and then Bonaventure laid the theological foundation for the same by seeing all things as</p>










		<p><i>likenesses of God, fingerprints and footprints (vestigia Dei) that reveal the divine DNA underlying all living links in creation. John Duns Scotus would philosophically name this “the univocity of all being.” In other words, we may speak of all beings with “one consistent voice.” Dawn Nothwehr, a Franciscan sister, lovingly calls it “cosmic mutuality.”</i></p> <p>The Franciscan notion of the “univocity of being” gave an early philosophical foundation to what we now call the circle of life or ecosystems, holons and fractals (parts that replicate the whole), unitive or contemplative thinking, and mysticism itself. Duns Scotus believed creation was more than an “analogy of being,” as Thomas Aquinas taught; there was an objective continuity between Creator and Creatures.</p> <p><b>Gateway to Silence:</b> Praised be You, my Lord, through all your creatures. —Francis of Assisi</p> <p><b>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</b> <a href="http://www.cac.org">www.cac.org</a></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for the families of the 5,000-plus people (as of March 14, 2020) who have died and for those undergoing treatment. Ask God to comfort the broken-hearted and to strengthen those who are suffering physically and emotionally.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>“The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.”</p> <p><b>Mother Teresa</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray with church leaders as they offer insight and wisdom to their congregations and communities. Ask God to give them opportunities to be voices of reason, clarity and grace.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>Affirmation of Faith</b> We believe in God above us, Creator of all things, Sustainer of all life. We believe in Christ beside us, Companion and friend, Redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe. We believe in Spirit deep within us, Advocate and Guide, who lives with us eternally. We believe in God’s resurrection created world, where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies. We believe in God above, beside, within, God yesterday, today and forever, the Three-in-One, the One-in-Three. We believe in God.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that God’s people would be unified as one Church, and that we would look to the lives and faith of our persecuted brothers and sisters as we navigate fear and the unknown ... that we would look to them for guidance and for hope</p>




<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>Reflection:</b>  <b>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</b></p> <p>108. “The idea of promoting a different cultural paradigm and employing technology as a mere instrument is nowadays inconceivable. The technological paradigm has become so dominant that it would be difficult to do without its resources and even more difficult to utilize them without being dominated by their internal logic. It has become countercultural to choose a lifestyle whose goals are even partly independent of technology, of its costs and its power to globalize and make us all the same. Technology tends to absorb everything into its ironclad logic, and those who are surrounded with technology “know full well that it moves forward in the final analysis neither for profit nor for the well-being of the human race”, that “in the most radical sense of the term power is its motive – a lordship over all”. As a result, “man seizes hold of the naked elements of both nature and human nature”. Our capacity to make decisions, a more genuine freedom and the space for each one’s alternative creativity are diminished.”</p> <p><b>Prayerfully consider this</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b>  Pray that we as God’s people would be reminded of our hope in Christ and the truth that our Saviour who died and rose for us has already overcome the world. Pray that we would be people who read His Word and take both His call and His promises to head and heart.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	 <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b>  Pray for those whose jobs or hours have been cut due to economic downturn. Pray for parents who are struggling to work and care for their children. Pray that churches would look for ways to reach out to families in their communities to provide for them and show them the love of Christ.</p>

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Earth Day</b></p> <p>April 22nd, 2020 officially marks 50 years of celebrating Earth Day with the theme “<b>Climate Action</b>”. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.</p> <p>The world needs you - and your actions - for Earth Day 2020 and there are so many simple, green changes you can make at home in honour of this day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you use a reusable water bottle?</li> <li>• Do you turn off your lights when you leave the room?</li> <li>• Do you collect rainwater for your plants?</li> <li>• Do you use a cloth towel instead of paper towels</li> <li>• Do you fix your leaky taps?</li> <li>• Do you turn the tap off while you are brushing your teeth?</li> <li>• Do you fix stuff instead of throwing it away?</li> <li>• Do you unplug your electronics at night?</li> <li>• Do you recycle your old electronics?</li> <li>• Do you have a “creature friendly” garden?</li> <li>• Do you go “meatless” at least once a week?</li> </ul> <p><i>“We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly. We only have one (Mother) Earth, so let's treat her right.”</i></p> <p><b>A Prayer on Climate Change</b></p> <p>Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change. In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth.</p> <p>May we follow your lead in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made, and love. We pray for world leaders to find new, just and radical agreements that will protect our fragile world for future generations. Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. Amen.</p> <p><b>(Adapted from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk">http://www.ctbi.org.uk</a>)</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray for those involved in the fight against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife – people who put their lives on the line each day. Pray for all those involved in conservation efforts.</p>
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<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>“The next transition, from the dominant scientific-technological period to the ecological period, is turbulent indeed. This turbulence establishes the context of our present educational discussions.”</p> <p><b>Thomas Berry</b></p>	
<p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for world leaders as they work with healthcare organizations and the medical community to develop next steps. Pray that all would be united for the common good.</p>			
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</b></p> <p><i>The Global Technical Strategy for Malaria</i></p> <p>The <a href="#">WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030 (GTS)</a> –provides a technical framework for all malaria-endemic countries. It is intended to guide and support regional and country programmes as they work towards malaria control and elimination.</p> <p>The Strategy set ambitious but achievable goals for 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing malaria case incidence by at least 90%</li> <li>Reducing malaria mortality rates by at least 90%</li> <li>Eliminating malaria in at least 35 countries</li> <li>Preventing a resurgence of malaria in all countries that are malaria-free</li> </ul> <p>Near-term milestones for 2020 include reductions in malaria case incidence and death rates of at least 40% and the elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership to End Malaria</a> is leading the global malaria community in celebrating the milestone of 2 billion insecticide-treated mosquito nets delivered worldwide since 2004. The development and scale up of these nets are responsible for 68% of the malaria cases prevented in Africa since 2000, contributing to global efforts that saved more than 7 million lives and prevented more than 1 billion malaria cases.</p> <p>South Africa’s indigenous cases of malaria has dropped considerably in the past few years and has widened the geographical areas slated for indoor insecticide spraying. drop. However, imported cases of malaria - cross-border movement of populations from areas of higher risk for the disease, including</p>	  

		<p>migrant workers from bordering malaria-endemic countries as well as residents of South Africa travelling to these places - continue to be a concern.</p> <p>Despite these concerns, the South African government intends to reach its elimination goal despite current staffing shortages and supply chain challenges. Through the regional Elimination 8 initiative, 14 border posts have been set up in high-risk areas to improve access to timely malaria diagnosis and treatment for mobile and migrant populations, reducing the risk of onward transmission.</p> <p><b>Let 's continue to cover this issue in prayer!</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray with researchers and biologists as they work to develop a coronavirus vaccine. Pray for wisdom and insight.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>International Penguin Day</b></p> <p>Penguins are awesome! right? .... There's more to adorable, yet endangered penguins than meets the eye ...</p>  <p>From the ice-sheets of Antarctica to the shores of the Atacama Desert of South America and the tropical islands of the Galapagos, penguins have adapted to life in all the oceans of the Southern Hemisphere. Their black and white plumage helps them with thermoregulation and can be used as armour against abrasive winds. It also serves as countershading camouflage. This allows them to coordinate movements when hunting in a group. Most penguin species are monogamous, with females choosing the same male every season. Penguin couples will only “break up” if one mate fails to return to the colony at the beginning of the breeding season.</p> <p>Most penguin species are declining in numbers and most are vulnerable to extinction. South Africa’s own African penguin population has declined from millions, to just 21 000 breeding pairs.</p> <p>Human-caused climate change is affecting the movements of the fish that African penguins eat. This means that adults have to abandon their chicks and swim greater distances in search of food. Contribute to the fight against climate change by using less electricity at home, changing to a plant-based diet, recycling your waste, and driving and flying less– the penguins need your help.</p>  <p><b>Prayerfully consider if your lifestyle is contributing to - or mitigating the affects - of climate change</b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b></p> <p>Pray with first-responders around the world who are tasked with triaging, testing, and treating increasing numbers of people. Ask God to give them patience, wisdom and a gentle spirit as they work to navigate fears and offer effective treatment. Hospitals are seeing unprecedented numbers of patients with symptoms of flu.</p>

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Give us, loving Father, the wisdom so to deal with the things we possess that they may never possess us. Deliver us from reliance on our own cleverness in science and technology. Banish our fears as we face unprecedented challenges, both spiritual and technological, and keep our feet always on the path of justice and peace, for the sake of your Son, who died to save us from our sins.</p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray with church leaders as they offer insight and wisdom to their congregations and communities. Ask God to give them opportunities to be voices of reason, clarity and grace.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>27</p>	<div data-bbox="517 539 1378 1608" style="background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p><b>And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.</b></p>  <p><b>And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.</b></p>  <p><b>And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.</b></p> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray for the families of the 5,000-plus people (as of March 14, 2020) who have died and for those undergoing treatment. Ask God to comfort the broken-hearted and to strengthen those who are suffering physically and emotionally.</p>

Tuesday

28

## A Song for Planet Earth

Just imagine the whole world  
Seen from way high up above  
And then join us in a song as we sing,  
Sing of the planet we love.

Look around at the universe and you will see  
Nowhere that suits us so perfectly.  
We know way out in space, this is just a blue  
dot.  
Yet the Earth is our home and it's all that  
we've got.

CHORUS:  
This planet and we are a beautiful fit.  
It'll take care of us if we take good care of  
it.

There are dolphins and eagles and  
flowers.

Oh what other planet is better than ours!

It has mountains for climbing and soil for our  
crops  
And an ocean that reaches the shore and then stops.  
Its air is refreshing, its forests are fun.  
And it's just the right distance away from the sun.

(CHORUS)

We know Jupiter's bigger and Saturn has rings.  
And Mars has huge canyons and other cool things.  
But no other planet has so much to give.  
So let's please keep the Earth such a good place to live.

(CHORUS)

Will the Earth be as friendly when we're fully grown?  
When we're women and men who have kids of our own?  
And will they think of Earth as an exquisite gem  
On the day that we turn the world over to them?

This planet and we are a beautiful fit.  
It'll take care of us if we take good care of it.  
There are dolphins and eagles and flowers.  
Oh what other planet is better than ours?  
There's no planet as wonderful as ours.

**Music by Barbara Klaskin Silberg | Lyrics by Bob Silberg**

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[Hear the song](#)

### **COVID 19 Prayer for today:**

Pray for those whose jobs or hours have been cut due to economic downturn. Pray for parents who are struggling to work and care for their children. Pray that churches would look for ways to reach out to families in their communities to provide for them and show them the love of Christ.



<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>"As Orthodox Christians, we use the Greek word <i>kairos</i> to describe a moment in time, often a brief moment in time, which has eternal significance. For the human race as a whole, there is now a <i>kairos</i>, a decisive time in our relationship with God's creation. We will either act in time to protect life on earth from the worst consequences of human folly, or we will fail to act. May God grant us the wisdom to act in time. Amen."</p> <p><b><i>His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew</i></b></p> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that God's people would be unified as one Church, and that we would look to the lives and faith of our persecuted brothers and sisters as we navigate fear and the unknown ... that we would look to them for guidance and for hope.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<div data-bbox="576 613 1318 1431" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>COVID 19 Prayer for today:</b> Pray that we as God's people would be reminded of our hope in Christ and the truth that our Saviour who died and rose for us has already overcome the world. Pray that we would be people who read His Word and take both His call and His promises to head and heart.</p>

(COVID19 prayers taken from [Open Doors USA's website](https://www.opendoorsusa.org/) (and adapted) and is reprinted here with acknowledgement to them.)

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