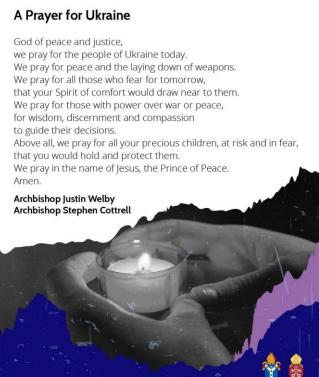


JAEI April 2022 Environmental Prayer Diary

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





NOW OUR LORD JESUs Christ HIMSELF, GOD, CVEN OUR FATHER, WHO HAS LOVED US CHAS GIVEN US everlastic consolation and GOOD HOPE through GRACE, COMPORT YOUR hearts (ESTABLISH YOU In EVERY GOOD WORD and WORK.

We pray to you, Creator God, with gratitude For your holding and sustaining love Saturday 2 For the air, water, and soil that feed us For the mountains and rivers and oceans that calm our spirits For loving and supporting all beings and all creation. We pray to you, Creator God, with humility Help us to remember our place in the great web of life Help us to remember that we are but a part of this great web, and that we must do our part for all life. We pray to you, Creator God, for forgiveness For our ignorance and wilful disregard of the damage we have done to you, to the air and the waters. and the soil and the life of this beautiful planet. We pray to you, Creator God, for fortitude to uphold our part in reversing the damage we have caused, for fortitude to make and sustain a commitment to do our part to heal the planet. Creator God, in gratitude and humility, we ask that you hold us and sustain us, as we strive to live in connection with you and all life. Amen Lucy Bunch Fifth Sunday in Lent Spirit of steadfast love, what you have created you have power also to Sunday 3 restore; you even bring dry bones from the valley of death back into the land of the living. Renew the earth, that all its inhabitants might sing your praises with one voice. Dennis Ormseth http://www.letallcreationpraise.org **Monday** Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul. Thomas Merton

Tuesday

5

It Was Very Good

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1: 1-2, and 1: 31

What are the opening words of the Bible? In the beginning God.... It all begins with God. The source of all life starts with God. In the beginning God created..... God is the foundation. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God brought into being this incredible universe, the vastness of which we can't even begin to comprehend.

What is described as a day in Genesis 1 in God's terms could be a few billion years. The universe is 14 billion years old and our planet 4.5 billion. Life on planet Earth came about with "the Spirit of God hovering over the waters"

Our planet has evolved into this incredible state of beauty and abundance we are privileged to experience. Just stop and think of the wonder of life around us, the beauty of the mountains, the oceans, the birds and animals, that spectacular sunrise, all of which has enabled us to flourish.

At the end of Genesis chapter 1 we read "God saw everything he had made, and indeed it was very good". Everything was good, not just humans. And God charged us to look after, care for and protect God's magnificent creation.

But we have been seriously disobedient to God. We have selfishly exploited and abused God's creation, to such an extent that we are now seriously threatening the future of life on our only home. We are bringing about biodiversity loss, causing the extinction of thousands of creatures and plants. Through our ongoing burning of fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - we are warming the atmosphere bringing about weather extremes of droughts and floods, increased heat and cold and unpredictable weather patterns.

We have to change our ways. That means recognising we are part of nature. We are not separate. We must live in harmony with nature and all of life. We must care for all life, recognising that life is sacred. Bishop Ellinah knew this. She has left us an example of how we should live, inspiring us to love God and love Mother Earth.

Reflection:

Reflect on how your current lifestyle is damaging God's Earth. What changes can you commit to, starting this Lent?

Prayer

We praise you Our Lord and God, for the variety of your creation and for the sanctity you have bestowed on all life through creation. May we know the sanctity of life and foster the conservation and preservation of the variety of God-given life. May we never – knowingly or otherwise – be responsible for the extinction of a plant or animal. God, may new life fill us all, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, to know your wonder, your love and the abundant life you give.

Amen

Bishop Geoff Davies

Patron of SAFCEI

Taken from "Seeds of Hope – 40 Devotions on Creation" to honour the memory of Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya

Colossians 1:5-21 6

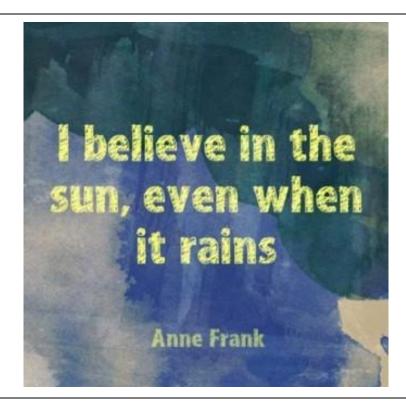
on the cross.

Wednesday

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation - 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Thursday 7



Friday

8

Creator God, we call out to you and ask for your help in protecting the wondrous world you have given us to call home. You answer us and say, "Here I am." May your presence give us the strength and courage to lift up our voices like a trumpet and speak out about the injustices to your creation that we witness each day.

Amen

Saturday 9

Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth: At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on:

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, And they left me there on a cross to die:

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone; But I am the dance, and I still go on:

They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die. I'll live in you if you'll live in me: I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Sydney Carter

Sunday

10

Palm Sunday

Creator God, Palm Sunday is a reminder of the unexpected, yet fully anticipated, King of Kings. Jesus did not look like the Messiah your people hoped for. The way he entered the Holy City of Jerusalem on that day, riding a young donkey as a significant sign of peace and fulfilment of



prophecy, did not align with their expectations of a military conqueror. Much of our daily lives don't align with our expectations, Lord. So much of our lives don't make sense. This Palm Sunday, let us embrace the unexpected entrance of our Saviour, Jesus. He is Peace. Let us apply this incredible truth to our lives. Peace mattered to Jesus. He came to bring us Peace. He is peace. Father, how quickly we forget the Peace we possess in Christ! Remind us, minute by minute, as we navigate difficult days and trying times. Father, we need Peace to live life to the full, as Jesus died for us to live.

| | | Holy Monday |
|-----------|----|---|
| Monday | 11 | Creator God, Jesus declared that Your house would be a house of prayer. We are like living stones being built up as a spiritual house. Remind us today to pray without ceasing. This morning we confess our need for you and bring all our cares and concerns before Your throne. |
| | | We remember Jesus' prayer from the cross for forgiveness for those who placed Him there. Thank you for bearing our sins and forgiving us every day. Help us to forgive the people who have sinned against us. Fill our hearts with the love, mercy, and grace that held You on that cross for us. |
| | | May we bring You honour and glory with our thoughts, words, and actions |
| | | In Jesus' name, Amen. |
| | | Holy Tuesday |
| Tuesday | 12 | Creator God, you promised a Messiah and He came, just as You said. We trust that we can count on His promised return when we will join Him forever. Make us people whose word can be trusted and who are faithful, in love, to You, to our families, and to our neighbours. Increase our faith and boldness to proclaim the truth of Jesus to the world. |
| | | We recall the cross and the obedience Jesus demonstrated at Calvary. We fall so far short in our attempts at obedience but because of Jesus, we can confess our sins and know You are faithful to forgive. Tonight, we rest in that faithful forgiveness and thank you, again, for your plan of redemption. |
| | | In Jesus' name, Amen. |
| | | |
| | | Holy Wednesday |
| Wednesday | 13 | Holy Wednesday Creator God, as the woman in Bethany anointed Jesus with perfume, so we demonstrate our devotion through praise today. You are holy and just. You are beautiful and wise. You are merciful and full of grace. We praise the beautiful name of Jesus. We rejoice in You today and in Your Son. |
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| | Good Friday |
|----|--|
| 15 | Creator God, how can we thank you enough for the sacrifice of Your Son on the cross of Calvary? Your plan of salvation is beautiful, and we rejoice that You've made a way for us to be in a relationship with You and to live with You forever. How we long for the world to know the truth and to participate in the redemption of Jesus Christ! We intercede for all who don't know You that they may hear the gospel and that their hearts would be fertile soil to receive the truth of Jesus Christ. |
| | We are awed at the mystery of Christ's death and all that He accomplished for us on the cross. We are humbled at such amazing love that gives all so that we might live. Jesus announced on the cross that "It is finished" and so we rest in faith that His sacrifice covers our sins. His grace is sufficient for us and for that we are truly thankful. |
| | In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. |
| | Silent Saturday |
| 16 | Creator God, we can't begin to understand the mystery of this day when Jesus' body lay in the tomb and the disciples waited together in wonder and in prayer. For all those times when we can't see You at work, for all the hours of waiting between prayers and answers, for all the times we walk by faith, we thank You that You are patient with our restless wondering. You are at work even when we don't see. Increase our faith. |
| | We come before You with silence. In the stillness, may we sense Your presence and know You are near. Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. We know this full well. He demonstrated His love on the cross and we receive that love tonight. We praise You and honour You in silence and in peace. |
| | In Jesus' name, Amen. |
| | Resurrection Sunday - Easter Sunday |
| 17 | Creator God, we rejoice! With all creation, we rejoice in You, in Your Son, and in Your Holy Spirit! Jesus is alive and we celebrate His life. His life is eternal, and we live because of Him! May Jesus' resurrection be apparent in our life today and every day! Hallelujah! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! In Jesus' name, we pray and rejoice! Amen. Our desire is for You today and every day. As Holy Week draws to a close, we renew our commitment to live for Jesus, who died for us and rose again. May our lives testify to the truth of Jesus and point the world toward His sacrifice on the cross, His resurrection, |
| | 16 |

Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

| Monday | 18 | Many small creatures can spend their whole life within the perimeters of your yard. Their fives depend on you. No Toxins - Plant Natives - Leave The Leaves. To kent more about so shinkly knobes ping visits wow healthy and knobe to get your years. **REALTH** **Processor behinden 1100 at these them. |
|-----------|----|--|
| Tuesday | 19 | "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now." |
| Wednesday | 20 | Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship The Illusion of Communication Information without wisdom 47. True wisdom demands an encounter with reality. Today, however, everything can be created, disguised and altered. A direct encounter even with the fringes of reality can thus prove intolerable. A mechanism of selection then comes into play, whereby I can immediately separate likes from dislikes, what I consider attractive from what I deem distasteful. In the same way, we can choose the people with whom we wish to share our world. Persons or situations we find unpleasant or disagreeable are simply deleted in today's virtual networks; a virtual circle is then created, isolating us from the real world in which we are living. 48. The ability to sit down and listen to others, typical of interpersonal encounters, is paradigmatic of the welcoming attitude shown by those who transcend narcissism and accept others, caring for them and welcoming them into their lives. Yet "today's world is largely a deaf world At times, the frantic |

pace of the modern world prevents us from listening attentively to what another person is saying. Halfway through, we interrupt him and want to contradict what he has not even finished saying. We must not lose our ability to listen". Saint Francis "heard the voice of God, he heard the voice of the poor, he heard the voice of the infirm and he heard the voice of nature. He made of them a way of life. My desire is that the seed that Saint Francis planted may grow in the hearts of many".[49]

- 49. As silence and careful listening disappear, replaced by a frenzy of texting, this basic structure of sage human communication is at risk. A new lifestyle is emerging, where we create only what we want and exclude all that we cannot control or know instantly and superficially. This process, by its intrinsic logic, blocks the kind of serene reflection that could lead us to a shared wisdom.
- 50. Together, we can seek the truth in dialogue, in relaxed conversation or in passionate debate. To do so calls for perseverance; it entails moments of silence and suffering, yet it can patiently embrace the broader experience of individuals and peoples. The flood of information at our fingertips does not make for greater wisdom. Wisdom is not born of quick searches on the internet nor is it a mass of unverified data. That is not the way to mature in the encounter with truth. Conversations revolve only around the latest data; they become merely horizontal and cumulative. We fail to keep our attention focused, to penetrate to the heart of matters, and to recognize what is essential to give meaning to our lives. Freedom thus becomes an illusion that we are peddled, easily confused with the ability to navigate the internet. The process of building fraternity, be it local or universal, can only be undertaken by spirits that are free and open to authentic encounters.

Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country

Thursday 21



Friday

22

Earth Day

2022 Earth Day theme: "Invest in Our Planet."

This is the moment to change it all - the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, **our livelihoods**...

together, we must Invest in Our Planet.

Because a **green** future is a **prosperous** future.

We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens - everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.



And while there is still time to solve the

climate crisis, time to choose BOTH a prosperous and sustainable future, and time to restore nature and build a healthy planet for our children and their children, **time is short**.

Invest in our Planet - and build a prosperous and equitable future

"There's a way to do it better — find it." – **Thomas Edison**

Unless businesses act now, climate change will ever more deeply damage economies, increase scarcity, drain profits and job prospects, and impact us all.



Yet we already know that private sector innovation (with public support) accelerates the kind of rapid change we need, like nothing else. And it pays.

Smart companies are discovering that it is no longer a choice between going

green and growing long-term profits - sustainability is the path to prosperity. So for both humanitarian and business reasons, it is imperative that companies of all sizes take action and embrace the benefits of a green economy. Business leaders need to get on board with a sustainable future or get out of the way.

Invest in our Planet - and build healthy cities, countries, and economies

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." – **Socrates**

When it comes to climate change, money talks. Through regulations, incentives, and public/private partnerships, governments hold the keys to transform and build the green economy. Similar to the industrial and information revolutions, governments must incentivize their citizens, businesses, and institutions to build a resilient future. Ultimately, governments will empower green business practices as not only the ethical option but also the lucrative one. Imagine the impact of shifting to policies and partnerships that build a renewable economy.

Invest in our Planet - it's the only home we have. we need everyone, while there is still time

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world." – **Dolores Huerta**



everyone, everything, every day...

As individuals, we have the simple yet effective power to make our voices heard through our choices, our civic actions, and our personal interactions. What each of us does, and how we do it, has a huge ripple effect on our ecosystems, and on the pace of corporate and government action.

For Earth Day 2022, together, for

Saturday

23

Earth Day Prayer of Confession

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it. Your works declare glory and splendour, and you call us to praise and reverence.

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet,

grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray.

Amen.

Rev. Ken Carter, pastor of Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina

Sunday

24

We ask You to fill the hearts of all who lead well-resourced nations, Give them your mercy and compassion on countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate.

Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that communities can adapt to the effects of climate change and develop using clean energy.

Inspire us, Mighty God to amend our lives for the sake of your Earth, your climate, your people.

Monday

25

World Malaria Day

World Malaria Day is an annual event which takes place on the 25th April to raise awareness about malaria prevention. It highlights the need for funding and support to work towards eradicating the disease.

It's also a day to celebrate the great steps that have been taken in recent years to control the disease and help those affected by it.



Malaria is one of the oldest diseases that have continuously plagued mankind. There are ancient records of malaria-like illness from 5000 years ago in China, 3000 years ago in Egypt and the Middle East. *Plasmodium falciparum* (the malaria parasite) has been found in 40% of Egyptian mummies dated to 3200 BC. Malaria may also have killed pharaohs in 1324 BC, stopped Alexander the Great in 326 BC, and influenced thousands of other military campaigns in ancient times. These dates vary slightly from the biblical time frame given by conservative scholars; however, the observation of malaria a few thousands of years ago are reasonable and demonstrate that malaria is a very ancient disease. Malaria has no doubt played a role in the lives Jews and early Christians. Although it is not named specifically in the Scriptures, it is possible that two passages are referring to malaria.

- Deuteronomy 28:22 The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation
- Matthew 8:14–16 (also parallel in Mark 1:30–31 and Luke 4:37–38) the most likely Bible passages pertaining to malaria are those telling of
 the case of fever in Peter's mother in-law.

Regardless, malaria is not just a scourge of the ancient world, but it is serious parasitic disease today.

Although Malaria transmission in South Africa is seasonal, with malaria cases starting to rise in October, peaking in January and February, and waning towards May – it is as well to be aware of the dangers of this dangerous disease.

Prayer:

God of hope and of the future, we pray for all those around the world who today are reminded of the loss of friends and loved ones who succumbed to malaria. We pray for those who suffer from the burning fever and painful aches of this dreadful disease, and for those who live in constant dread of the bite of deadly mosquitoes, that they find respite from their pains and that you fill their hearts with hope and reassurance of a malaria-free future.

We also pray that we would always remember to give, pray, support and partner with those who daily fight the scourge of malaria in whatever little or big way - that they be filled with hope as they continue to work towards a malaria-free world. Amen. .

Tuesday

26

Paschal Mystery

Given our twin planetary crises of climate change and unjust financial distribution, what is needed is not more information but the will to move from belief to action, from denial to profound change at both personal and public levels. The religions of the world, countercultural in their assumption that "to find one's life, one must lose it," are key players in understanding and promoting a movement



from a model of God, the world, and the self focused on individualistic, market-oriented accumulation by a few, to a model that sees self and planetary flourishing as interdependent. We live within our models and make decisions on the basis of them. . . . The interdependent model demands self-emptying (Christian kenosis) or "great compassion" (Buddhism) on the part of the well-to-do, so that all human beings and other life-forms may live just, sustainable lives. —Sallie McFague

From evolution and the lifecycle of stars to our own lives, transformation and change appear to happen through periods of loss, crisis, stress, and even death. Physicists today would say that loss of energy or matter is not real. There is only transformation. Think of the changes water goes through in its journey from cloud (vapor) to liquid (rain) or solid (ice) and back to vapor. What may look like loss or death is in fact a becoming.

Spiritual teachers in all the great traditions have said the same thing in different ways. In Christianity, it was called the paschal mystery. Jesus became the living image of that pattern; his crucified body was transmuted, transformed into the risen Christ. Jesus taught and showed us that "unless the grain of wheat dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

We might say that creativity and new life have a cost. The cost looks like death but really isn't. We perceive death and loss as enemies and afflictions because they appear to be the opposite of life. Spiritually speaking, to somehow embrace loss is to find eternal life. Death allows us to be united with what is really real. To avoid all loss, to avoid all letting go, is to avoid transformation into God, into union, into something more. Wisdom teachers say that if you spend your whole life avoiding dying, you'll lose your real life.

This is about as counterintuitive as it gets. There is no rational explanation or proof. We have to experience it to know that it is in fact true—just as true for us humans as throughout the natural world. As Jesus said, "You must lose your life to find your life" (Matthew 10:39; 16:25).

How can we embrace the losses that are happening due to "climate change and unjust financial distribution," as Sally McFague writes, and move through them into the higher states of consciousness, freedom, and love so urgently needed today?

Gateway to Silence:

Let it go; let it be.

From Richard Rohr's daily meditations

www.cac.org

| Wednesday | 27 | About 41% of amphibian species & 26% of mammals are threatened with extinction-& this inculdes humans as well! |
|-----------|----|---|
| Thursday | 28 | "If there is no spirituality in the Earth, then there is no spirituality in ourselves." We have forgotten that Nature was our first Bible, a mirror and reflection of our Creator" Thomas Berry |
| Friday | 29 | ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts forms one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. <i>1 Corinthians 12:14</i> God, help us to recognise that we are a part of your creation and intertwined with every aspect of the natural world. |
| Saturday | 30 | May the sun bring you new energy by day, may the moon softly restore you by night, may the rain wash away your worries, may the breeze blow new strength into your being, may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life. Amache Wassing |