

Creation Care and Stewardship

“For God so loved the world...”

The words **creation care** evokes an image of a woven fabric, a web of connectivity where ALL is connected, nothing stands alone. No matter where in the conversation we enter this awareness, no matter what our circumstances, each of us stands in a unique time and place in the unfolding drama of creation.

The full expression of God is love: Love created the world; Love redeemed the world; and Love sustains the world. We are, each and everyone one of us, a unique expression of that love occupying a specific existence in that woven fabric. Love is the primary motivation for the existence of ALL. Love seeks the harmony of ALL creation.

Christianity is a creation-centered religion bodily grounded in space and time. Though we may be tempted to focus our attention away from earth and toward heaven to gain eternal life, we know we are called to affirm the ‘kingdom of God is among us’ here and now. Creation is our first experience of reality. It is where we are born, our first relationships with family and our environment.

As grateful and responsible stewards we are challenged in our Baptismal Covenant with two questions:

- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

The Earth provides for our needs. The woven fabric, Earth, is broken in many places where there is: greedy exploitation benefitting few people, racial and political violence, climate catastrophe, food scarcity, etc. Disciples of Jesus are called to tend and cultivate the resources of the Earth for ALL in the present and future through loving sacrificial service. Our wellbeing depends upon how we choose to live.

Creation Care invites you into a conversation to grow our love for the Earth; walk with marginalized and vulnerable peoples; and adapt practical ways to reduce our climate impacted living as individuals, congregations, and diocese.

Canon Jotie, T.S.S.F.

Prayer of Commitment

We join with the earth and with each other.

To bring new life to the land; To restore the waters; To refresh the air.

We join with the earth and with each other

To renew the forests; To care for the plants; To protect the creatures.

We join with the earth and with each other

To celebrate the seas; To rejoice into the sunlight; To sing the song of the stars.

We join with the earth and with each other

To recreate the human community; To promote justice and peace;

To remember our children.

We join with the earth and with each other.

We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:
for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life. Amen.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

