SHOW THE LOVE
2019
CHRISTIAN RESOURCE
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#SHOWTHELOVE
Climate change is an urgent concern for Christians. From the book of Genesis to Revelation, a thread runs through the Bible binding creation and humanity together in a relationship of love, respect and protection.

We are called to care for the Earth and for one another, including for the poorest of the Earth most vulnerable to climate change, for the beauty and diversity of species created by our loving God, and for future generations.

Throughout scripture, countless voices praise the beauty and wonder of God’s creation, and encourage us to reflect on our duties to be good stewards of creation. See for example: Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15; Psalm 104; Job 38-41

Psalm 104: 24-25, 27-28, 31

“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures. All creatures look to you to give food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.”

Rosie Heaton/CAFOD
Jesus’ own life offers us a model. He lived simply, not accumulating possessions, but sharing in fellowship in the gifts of creation. His teaching was woven through with images of nature, as God teaches us, through nature, about his Kingdom. Jesus’ Ministry was shaped by relationships of restoration, a preferential care for the poor and for children, and by the promise of a renewed creation in the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6 19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”

How does this teaching from Jesus speak to us about climate change today?

As we wonder at and give thanks for the beauty of creation, we are called to act for its preservation, for justice, and for all the people of the Earth, including future generations.

Climate change is already impacting some of the poorest communities on Earth, through rising sea levels, drought, extreme weather events, and wildfires, in which the poorest people in all societies are always the most vulnerable.

Species are going extinct at an alarming rate, with up to 50% of species headed for extinction by the middle of this century. Without urgent action now, the science suggests we risk unprecedented levels of global warming, with unacceptable risks for future generations, and even the future of life on Earth.

Because creation is the gift of our loving God, as Christians we are called to act on climate change, to change our own lifestyles and through prayer and action, to ensure that the UK, along with other nations, do what we promised to keep global temperatures within the 1.5 degree rise agreed to in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2015.

This February during our Church Services, let’s give thanks for creation, and pray together for urgent action on climate change, at individual, Church, community, national and international levels.

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‘In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.’

Loving God,
thank you for the gift of creation.
As we experience each day,
may we take time to wonder and give you thanks.

From each sunrise to every sunset,
in every season, and with every breath,
may we celebrate our home in creation,
and the glorious gift of life.

As the climate changes through our lifestyles,
give us compassion to care deeply that people are suffering now,
from drought, flood, wildfires and terrible storms.

Give us the imagination to see
that many species, and future generations are in peril
and may never know the beauty and
diversity of creation that we enjoy.

Give us passion to act now,
to pray for the changes needed within our communities,
our churches, our nation, and among the nations,
for climate change to be brought under control.

Guide us Lord, and guide our leaders, to act as you would have us act.
May our prayer and our actions flow from our love for your creation,
in all its beauty and diversity, a longing for justice for the poor,
and our commitment to all future generations
of your children on this Earth.

Amen.
The Climate Coalition is the national umbrella body working on climate change, bringing together over 130 organisations, representing 17 million people across the UK. This February, we are all invited to Show the Love for God’s creation, by wearing green heart sticker and having a conversation in our church community, or with our friends and neighbours, about climate change. We all need to start talking more about climate change, and action begins with prayer, and faithful conversations.

DURING THE SERVICE, OR AFTER CHURCH, OVER COFFEE, PLEASE INVITE EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION TO:

• Take and wear a green heart sticker

• Talk to someone over coffee about climate change - what do you care about? What do you love that you want to protect from climate change? What actions do we as Christians need to take together?

• Alternatively, you could take home the sticker to wear it and have a conversation in the week ahead, with a neighbour, a work colleague, in the school playground - where is most important for you to start a conversation about climate change?

• If you use social media, please take a photo of yourself and share it online with the hashtags #ShowTheLove and #God’screation - this way Christians of all denominations come together as part of the national campaign online, alongside people of other faiths and none, showing our love God’s creation.

• If your Church would like to take Show the Love a step further, download The Climate Coalition’s Community Pack, which includes a postcard to send your local MP, craft and youth and children’s activities.

Notes to organisers and Priests, Ministers and Church Leaders:

1) You can order as many green heart stickers as you need for your congregation by emailing Mark Robinson at campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org.

2) Please get your order in by 22nd January so your green heart stickers can be posted out to you in good time!