



Our United Methodist Social Principles What's the Buzz?

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Father, Forgive What We Do and Not Do

A Litany of Confession

The Lord's Prayer and Creation Care

The Lord's Prayer has enriched Christians' discipleship for almost two thousand years. There are many ways to understand this prayer; this is evident in the different versions and the numerous books written about it. The following litany was written to recognize the connections between Luke 11:1-13 (Jesus' teaching on prayer) and caring for God's creation.

LEADER: Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray saying, "Our Father ..."

PEOPLE: You created us, you made this world, and you called your creation very good. Yet often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.

LEADER: Jesus told us that you are "... in heaven ..."

PEOPLE: Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.

LEADER: We pray, "Hallowed be your name ..."

PEOPLE: We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.

LEADER: We pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ..."

PEOPLE: We confess that we often put our own interests first — exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest.

LEADER: We pray, "Give us today our daily bread."

PEOPLE: We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole creation suffers.

LEADER: We pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

PEOPLE: We confess that we see these words only in spiritual terms, while the Bible is filled with teachings about economic justice and creation care.

LEADER: We pray, "Save us from the time of trial."

PEOPLE: Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.

LEADER: We pray, "Deliver us from evil ..."

PEOPLE: Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others.

LEADER: We pray, "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever."

PEOPLE: Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power, and giving you glory.

LEADER: We pray, "Amen."

PEOPLE: We end our prayers with "Amen," a word that means "let it be so." We know we can be faithful disciples by your grace. Amen!

Permission is given to use this litany with credit to its authors, Carolyn and Bruce Gillette.

Praises and Visions in Holston

- No Two Churches Are Alike
- Start your own Creation Care of Environmental Stewardship effort in your church

Thinking Green Action Steps For Your Faith Congregation and You

- Turn Things OFF!!!!!!
- Recycle your bulletins, cards, inserts, 5th Sunday envelopes
- Recycle Sunday School material by sharing between classes and between fellow churches
- Church newsletters less frequently mailed and increase the use of e-mail
- Replace bulbs with Compact Fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or LED bulbs

Thinking Green Action Steps For Your Faith Congregation and You (continued)

- Have a Day event where you “Go Green for God!!!!!!”
- Use the LEED Environmental Guidelines
- Have outdoor space on Church grounds? Communal gardening and share
- After the church-wide yard sale? Box it up and make previous plans to pick up with Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, various area rescue ministries

Thinking Green Action Steps For Your Faith Congregation and You (continued)

- Eliminate as many paper/styrofoam products as possible
- Visit your church at 3 a.m.
- Publicly display church utility invoices
- Use your local “expertise” for information on **GOING GREEN**
- The more we work within our church ourselves to go green, that savings can go to other visions, missions, apportionments

Resources for your Creation Care Journey

Resources for Creation Care

I. A Biblical Foundation for Creation Care: Scriptures Categorized According to Themes

- A. God Created It
 Genesis 1:1-2:3 Job 38-41 Mark 13:19
 Job 12:7-10 Psalm 104
 Job 33:4 Isaiah 40:26
- B. God Loves It
 Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 136 John 3:16
- C. God has an Ongoing Relationship with It
 Numbers 22:22-39
- D. God Owns It
 Leviticus 25:23-24 Deuteronomy 10:14 Psalms 24, 89:9-11, 95:4-5
- E. Creation has a Relationship with God/Creation Praises God
 1Chronicles 16:32-33 Psalms 19:1-4, 65:12-13, 66:1-4, 96:11-13, 98:7-9, 148:3-4,7-13, 150:6
 Isaiah 55:12-13 1 Corinthians 10:26 Revelation 5:13
- F. A Relationship with Creation is Connected to a Relationship with God
 Genesis 4:10-11 1 Kings 4:29-34 Ecclesiastes 3:18-22
 Romans 1:20
- G. Caring for Creation and Caring for the Poor are Interconnected
 Exodus 23:10-11 Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:1-17
- H. Human Obedience/Disobedience to God's Commandments has Consequences for Creation
 Deuteronomy 11:13-17, 28:4,18 Isaiah 24:1-3, 44:1-5
 Hosea 4:1-3 Micah 7:13 Zechariah 8:12
 Galatians 6:7-9
- I. Jesus as Part of Creation
 John 1:1-10, 17:24 Colossians 1:15-17 Hebrews 1:2
- J. Jesus Prays in Deserted Places, Mountains, and Wilderness
 Mark 1:35 Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:28, 22:31-41
- K. Jesus as Redeemer of Creation
 Mark 16:15 John 12:47 Romans 8:18-23
 Ephesians 1:10 Colossians 1: 19-20
- L. Future Vision of a New Creation
 Isaiah 11:1-16 Ezekiel 17:22-24, 36:33-36
 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Revelation 21:1-22:7

Resources for your Creation Care Journey (continued)

▪ YOUTUBE

- "The Human Impact on this Earth" 6:30 min.
- "The Human Footprint" (National Geographic) 10:00 min.
- "Global Energy and Carbon; Tracking our Footprint" 27:00 min.
- "Nourish" a DVD 30:00 min.

Resources for your Creation Care Journey (continued)

▪ Books

- "Sacred Acts" Mallory McDuff
- "Global Warming and the Risen Lord" Jim Ball
- "Green Like God" Jonathan Merritt
- "EEARTH" founder of 350.org Bill McKibben
- "Serve God, Save the Planet" Matthew Sleeth
- "24/6 in A 24/7 World" Natalie and M. Sleeth
- ***BIBLE *** ***John Wesley***

Resources for your Creation Care Journey (continued)

▪ WEBSITES

- caretakersofgodscreation.org
 - gbcs.org
 - creationjustice.org
 - greenfaith.org
 - interfaithpowerandlight.org
 - shopIPL.org
 - serrv.org
 - umchealthyfamilies.org
 - myfootprint.org
 - worldometers.org
- our UMC ministry
global UMC
- cool cong. challenge
- fair trade

Resources for your Creation Care Journey (continued)

▪ WEBSITES (continued)

- ase.org
- 350.org
- appalachianvoices.org
- fossilfreeumc.org
- blessedearth.org

alliance to save energy

Bill McKibben's website

M. Sleeth's website

Sowing Seeds and Dropping Pebbles