

Creation Care Resources, Recommendations, Ideas

A resource of creation care materials for congregations to supplement the April 29, 2020 webinar with the Center for Anabaptist Studies: *Creation Care from a Biblical Perspective* with Katie Isaac, Katerina Friesen, and Sara Gurulé

Creation Care Organizations

- Mennonite Creation Care Network - www.mennocreationcare.org
- Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions - www.sustainableclimatesolutions.org
- Interfaith Power & Light - <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>
- MCC Washington Memo - <https://washingtonmemo.org/>
- Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries - <https://www.bcm-net.org/>
- USA A Rocha - <https://arocha.us/socal>

Study Resources

- Netbible.org
- Stepbible.org

Further Reading

- Bouma-Prediger, Steven. *For the Beauty of the Earth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.
 - Bouma-Prediger's book breaks down biblical foundations for creation care theology. It is an especially helpful resource to those new to evangelical environmental ethics conversations.
- [*Braiding Sweetgrass*](#), by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- Brunner, Daniel L, Jennifer L. Butler, and A. J. Swoboda. *Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
 - Brunner, Butler, and Swoboda explore the biblical, ecological, and historical background of Christian ecotheology (Parts 1 and 2) and movement towards concrete action (Part 3).
- Davis, Ellen F. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009
- [“From ‘Creation Care’ to ‘Watershed Discipleship’: Re-Placing Ecological Theology and Practice.”](#)
 - This is an edited and expanded version of a paper given by **Ched Myers** to the Mennonite Scholars and Friends Section of the AAR/SBL on November 23, 2013 in Baltimore, MD, published in the *Conrad Grebel Review*, Vol. 32, No. 3, Fall 2014, pp. 250-275.

- The Green Bible, by Harper Bibles (2010). “Understanding the Bible’s powerful message for the earth.”
- *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home, Encyclical Letter*, by Pope Francis
- Myers, Ched, ed. *Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice*. Cascade, 2016
- Patterson, Eugene H. *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1988
- *Redekop, Calvin. Creation & the Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective on a Sustainable World. Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins University Press, 2000.*
 - Redekop and his contributors share a wide variety of social, economic, and ecological issues and their faith relations to creation care from a Mennonite perspective
- Wild Lectionary: curated by Laurel Dykstra. Each week, author-practitioners meditate on the week’s lectionary passage in relation to watershed discipleship. <https://radicaldiscipleship.net/tag/wild-lectionary/>

Multi-Media Recommendations

- Mennonite Church USA: Climate Justice Blog: <http://mennoniteusa.org/climatejustice/> (opportunities for learning, prayer and action in response to climate change)
- Katherine Hayhoe Youtube podcasts (evangelical climate scientist): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi6RkdaEggRVKi3AzidF4ow/videos>
- Shifting Climates Podcast and Sunday School Curriculum- produced with funding from the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions. Found at www.shiftingclimates.com
- Schrock, Jennifer. *Every Creature Singing*. Goshen, IN: Mennonite Creation Care Network, 2014. <https://mennocreationcare.org/every-creature-singing/>.
 - This is a Sunday school curriculum that helps Christ followers to explore creation care theology, ecological peace, and practical applications in their local communities
- **Good Seed Sunday**: Every April, A Rocha Canada offers devotionals, videos, and free creation care resources to help churches consider how they can honor the Creator by honoring creation in their worship services. <https://arocha.ca/get-involved/good-seed-sunday/>
- **Citizens for Public Justice: Church Resources**: Creation-focused sermon starters, group studies, prayers, songs and more are on offer here from Citizens for Public Justice. <https://cpj.ca/ecological-justice/church-resources-ecological-justice>
- **Season of Creation Liturgical Resources**: The church calendar marks many times of the year as special worship seasons (i.e Advent, Lent, Pentecost), but large swaths of the year are considered "ordinary time". A movement to mark a portion of that ordinary time (September 1-October 4) as the "season of creation" offers churches the opportunity to focus their worship every year on the goodness of creation and on our call to care for and be in right relationship with it. <https://seasonofcreation.com/>
- **Climate Witness Project Creation Care Worship Resources**: Check out these crowd-sourced worship resources from church leaders across the US and Canada,

including sermons, prayers, liturgies, Bible studies, discussions starters, hymns, and more! <http://justice.crcna.org/worship>

Conversational strategies: Reframing the way we have creation care conversations.

- Theological Reframing
 - Call attention to ecological destruction through worship practices
 - Caring about the land has never been a competing cause with Christ
 - Recommended pastoral readings:
 - Recommended lay people readings:
- Social Reframing
 - Share personal stories people can connect with (MCC Global South Voices, community members...)
 - Listening to
 - Help someone find their own story
- Ecological Reframing
 - Understand your ecological region (your home). Find a local expert who your community respects and trusts. Take a tour.
 - Have a church service, Sunday school, activity outside
 - Read a book together. Book ideas: _____
- Political Reframing
 - De-politicize the conversation around climate change. Focusing on shared experiences, values.
 - Listen. Use neutral language (careful word use). Our allegiance is to the coming Kingdom, not this one.

Action Ideas

- Educate yourself and your community on the ecological realities in your community. How does the land/water/air/oppressed groups groan
 - Reach out to respected professionals within your communities to present to your congregation
 - Put on a movie night
- Brainstorm ways to share your under utilized resources (facilities, privilege...) how can we make space for the others that God loves? How can we be good defenders of all God's creation?
- Perform an energy audit (lots of free assessments for congregations)
- Commit to reading a book, focusing a bible study or Sunday school class on creation care
- Expand your vision of restoration/reconciliation. How your church's strengths/values work towards God's good future for all creation?

- Keep in mind/reflect upon your formative experiences: Earth was created as good, God so loved the world, shift around ecological understanding that started to see our interdependence with the rest of life (scientific perspective); being made in God's image as a good steward (how we are to relate with creation); respect for place (building understanding and relationship); relational language (interconnections between all beings); expanding definition of "caring for your neighbor"; creation as subject rather than an "it" - filled with life; we are part of creation