

## Earth Day 2021

**“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day”** (*Genesis 1:31*) . . .



**“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”** (*Genesis 2:15*)



Dear Fellow Members of St. Andrew,

On this 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day, I come to you in the Name of the One who created us and all things and said, “it is very good,” and who redeemed us and all creation through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I come with profound concern for the future of our home, planet earth and all things that dwell upon it. Fifty-one years after the alarm was sounded concerning the threat to our environment and God's wonderful creation, the sad truth is that the threat has grown rather than receded and we have been confronted with ever-increasing signs of its suffering and decline. The world's climate scientists have sounded the alarm that unless we address the climate changes resulting from rising atmospheric and oceanic temperatures, we can expect increasingly cataclysmic changes to our environment with disastrous results for us humans and all living things.

As people of faith, we know that God has given us humans the responsibility for caring for and helping to preserve the precious gift that this earth is to us. I know that many of you share my concern that we Christians have not done enough to address the environmental problems before us and have, in fact, often been part of the problem than the solutions.

On the fifty-first anniversary of Earth Day, therefore, I am hoping to gather a group of volunteers from among us to give leadership in addressing the common challenge that is before us. I envision this group providing us all with opportunities to learn more about the challenge before us and ways in which we can individually, as families, as a congregation and as citizens contribute to meeting the challenge ahead motivated by our high calling as God stewards of the earth and the power of His Holy Spirit imparted to us through Word and Sacrament.

I ask you to give prayerful consideration to serving with me giving leadership to all our members, and if so moved, to giving me a call or sending me an email indicating your willingness to serve.

Yours together as God's stewards of the earth,

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## Prayers for Creation

Gracious God, your amazing love extends through all time and space, to all parts of your creation, which you created and called good. You made a covenant with Noah and his family, putting a rainbow in the sky to symbolize your promise of love and blessing to every living creature, and to all successive generations. You made a covenant with Abraham and Sarah, blessing them and their descendants throughout the generations. You made a covenant with Moses and the Israelite people to all generations, giving them the 10 commandments and challenging them to choose life. In Jesus, you invite us to enter into a new covenant, in communion with all who seek to be faithful to you. As people of faith, we are called into covenant. Your covenant of faithfulness and love extends to the whole creation. We pray for the healing of the earth, that present and future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation and continue to glorify and praise you.



### Prayer of Love and Healing for Earth

O God of All Names and Beyond All Names,  
I pray in great gratitude this holy day for Love.

Love raises the sun and greets me  
in each drop of water I drink,  
in each crumb of bread I taste,  
in each smile and tear I touch,  
in each child I meet.

In a mantle of awe, I stand enwrapped.

My feet rest upon Earth and my head meets the moon.

O Holy One, our times are fraught with challenge.

Our Earth suffers climatic chaos,

Men, women, and children suffer from wounds of conflict,  
droughts, floods and crumbling economic systems.

All manner of suffering and questions press into my soul.

My small beating heart does not seem large enough...

yet daily it keeps expanding beyond body boundaries into Compassion.

Each morning Love rises beyond a known horizon in the unknown day.

Each morning Hope beckons me into my stardust destiny.

Each noontime Grace feeds me with Love.

Each evening an invisible Breath enfolds me in a shawl of mercy.

O Holy one Who Is Love, Hope, Grace, and Breath  
transform our sadness and doubt into songs for Life.

We pray for our beloved planet and all brothers and sisters.

May healing waters bathe the rivers and oceans.

May small, deliberate actions grow seeds of Earth justice.

May one prophetic note of the smallest birdsong courageously sung  
on a busy street at dawn inspire leaders to free their voices to speak  
for the Common Good and future generations.

O God of All Names and Beyond All Names, Whose Face is Love

May I and we collectively

Be the face of Transforming Love

In this moment, In this day, In these times. Amen.

*-Prayer from the National Council of Churches*