

# Lenten Creation Care 2018

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God’s Creation throughout this season. May this calendar remind us to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both “our common home” and all those with whom we share it. On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty—those most harmed by our damaged climate—may we answer God’s call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care.

Compiled from many sources by...  
[www.IPLdmv.org](http://www.IPLdmv.org)  
  
**INTERFAITH Power & Light**  
 Our religious response to climate change.

and  **Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions**  
[www.faithforclimate.org](http://www.faithforclimate.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>A prayer from Psalm 51:  <i>A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.</i></p> <p>Creator God, we begin this Lenten Season asking for Your renewal. Through prayer, fasting, and sharing over these 40 days, we ask that our eyes be opened to the ways we can do better; in our relationships with You, Your creation, and all those with whom we share this, our Common Home. Lord, help us to restore what has been damaged through our sinful overconsumption and the systemic injustices that surround us, returning to You with renewed spirits.</p>			<p><b>FEBRUARY 14</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                      Ecclesiastes 3:20  <i>From dust we come; to dust we shall return.</i></p> <p>Reflect with gratitude on the reality that we all are made of and fed by the Earth.</p>	<p><b>15</b>                      Consider the gifts given to you. Pray about how you are called to use your time, talent, treasure, and testimony to care for our Common Home.</p>	<p><b>16</b>                      Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for centuries. Try eating vegetarian today, and check out Oxfam’s Eat for Good online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: <a href="http://bit.ly/eat4good">bit.ly/eat4good</a></p>	<p><b>17</b>                      Listen for God in nature today by taking a contemplative walk around your neighborhood.</p>
<p>Talk with your church about ordering “eco palms” for Palm Sunday. These palms help improve workers’ living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/4 to receive them in time: <a href="http://EcoPalms.org">EcoPalms.org</a></p>	<p>Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree. Aim for 68° during the day and 60° at night. Buy a programmable thermostat if you can. Always turn the heat off when you leave home.</p>	<p>Listen to Bill McKibben, a climate writer and Methodist Sunday school teacher, on his spiritual call to climate action. <a href="http://OnBeing.org">OnBeing.org</a> &gt; search “The Moral Math of Climate Change”</p>	<p>Mark 1:10  <i>As he was coming up out of the water ...</i></p> <p>Use water mindfully today, and find one way to support the health of God’s sacred waters.</p>	<p>Pick up some trash while you’re walking today and plan a Potomac River Watershed Cleanup project with your community in April: <a href="http://FergusonFoundation.org">FergusonFoundation.org</a></p>	<p>Isaiah 58:1-9  <i>This, rather, is the fast that I desire ...</i></p> <p>Reflect on how eating more plant-based meals may be a way to fast as the Lord desires.</p>	<p>Genesis 9:9-10  <i>I am establishing my covenant with you, with your descendants, and with every living creature.</i></p> <p>Take a walk in nature and observe the interdependence of all God’s Creation.</p>
<p>Make a plan to collect postcards at your church in support of a cap on carbon pollution in VA. Sign up to receive materials: <a href="http://bit.ly/CarbonPostcards">bit.ly/CarbonPostcards</a></p>	<p>Want to host a film screening at your congregation? Browse IPL’s Film Library: <a href="http://ipldmv.org/learn/film-library">ipldmv.org/learn/film-library</a></p>	<p>Join a Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions advocacy team, and speak out for strong climate policy at the local level. Contact <a href="mailto:info@faithforclimate.org">info@faithforclimate.org</a></p>	<p>Planning to travel? Consider getting there without flying. Can’t avoid flying? Fund a project that prevents one ton of climate pollution for each ton caused by your trip: <a href="http://NativeEnergy.com">NativeEnergy.com</a></p>	<p><b>MARCH 1</b>                      Shift to cleaner energy at home: See if a group of neighbors is going solar: <a href="http://ipldmv.org/solarcoops">ipldmv.org/solarcoops</a></p>	<p>Fast from meat and read Acts 7:30-40, in which Moses hears God speaking in the wilderness.</p> <p>Look for holy ground today: How can it embolden you to set the oppressed free?</p>	<p>Consider composting your food waste, returning nutrients to the soil. Learn about composting online, or get table scraps picked up: <a href="http://CompostCrew.com">CompostCrew.com</a>, <a href="http://VeteranCompost.com">VeteranCompost.com</a></p>

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Honor the Lord's day (and the Lord's Creation) by walking, biking, or taking public transportation to church today! <b>4</b>	Wash laundry in cold water for the week and hang it to dry to save energy and money. Read more here: <a href="http://bit.ly/DitchYourDryer">bit.ly/DitchYourDryer</a> <b>5</b>	Think about the role of our church in its environment. Could our community better care for Creation? Get involved with our green work, and flock together with other "green sheep" through Interfaith Power & Light ( <a href="http://ipldmv.org">ipldmv.org</a> ). <b>6</b>	Is your local waterway clean enough for baptism? Learn its name and pray: "God of sacred waters, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. May we be a blessing to Your waters." <a href="http://bit.ly/knowyourstream">bit.ly/knowyourstream</a> <b>7</b>	Talk to your pastor about a Creation care sermon during Faith Climate Action Week (4/14-22) or invite a speaker: <a href="http://ipldmv.org/speakers">ipldmv.org/speakers</a> Earth Day Resources: <a href="http://interfaithchesapeake.org/materials">interfaithchesapeake.org/materials</a> <b>8</b>	Look to purchase locally-grown food this weekend. Plan to walk to a farmers' market or consider joining a community-supported agriculture (CSA) group to receive fresh, local produce each week: <a href="http://LocalHarvest.org">LocalHarvest.org</a> <b>9</b>	Place an insulating cover on your water heater. "Blankets" can be found at hardware stores. If you have an electric water heater, you can do this yourself. If you have an oil or gas-powered heater, you may need a professional. <b>10</b>
Have an "embrace the silence" Sunday: make it a No Electricity Day! Turn off everything, and unplug if you can. Read Blessed Earth's resources on Sabbath living: <a href="http://SabbathLiving.org">SabbathLiving.org</a> <b>11</b>	Listen today to the stories of pastors fighting proposed gas pipelines in VA and consider how your church can stand in solidarity: <a href="http://bit.ly/pastorspipelines">bit.ly/pastorspipelines</a> <b>12</b>	Continue your stewardship into the Easter season: Organize "E-Cycling" for your congregation to dispose of old phones and TVs responsibly: <a href="http://e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler">e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler</a> <b>13</b>	Luke 9:23-25 <i>What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?</i> <b>14</b>  Reflect and pray for those who seek to gain profit at the expense of Creation.	<i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i> It can be difficult to contemplate our own end. Think today about greening your "final arrangements," when the time comes. One option is to help protect natural lands: <a href="http://GreenBurialCouncil.org">GreenBurialCouncil.org</a> <b>15</b>	Fast from meat today and read aloud "Prayer After Eating" by Wendell Berry: <i>I have taken in the light that quickened eye and leaf. May my brain be bright with praise of what I eat ... May I be worthy of my meat.</i> <b>16</b>	John 3:16 <i>For God so loved the Cosmos ...</i> God's circle of love is infinite and all-inclusive. Reflect and open your heart today to those in Creation, human or non-human, who lie outside your circle of love. <b>17</b>
Visit the "Spiritual Practice" page at <a href="http://CenterForSpiritualityInNature.org">CenterForSpiritualityInNature.org</a> and choose an exercise to practice in nature today. <b>18</b>	So many of God's children are caring for Creation. Check out this web comic to learn how our Muslim neighbors are going green: <a href="http://bit.ly/GreenMuslimsComic">bit.ly/GreenMuslimsComic</a> <b>19</b>	Jer. 31:33 <i>I will write my law upon their hearts.</i> God of the covenant, you call us to be fruitful servants within creation. Fill our hearts with compassion for the suffering of your Creation. <b>20</b>	Check out <a href="http://FaithForClimate.org">FaithForClimate.org</a> and learn how you can plug into faith-based environmental advocacy and education in Northern Virginia. <b>21</b>	Planning to make Easter baskets? Purchase chocolate that is Fair Trade, free from child labor, and supports farmer communities: <a href="http://EqualExchange.coop/Interfaith">EqualExchange.coop/Interfaith</a> <b>22</b>	As you fast from meat today, consider plant-based dishes for Easter Sunday: <a href="http://StFrancisAlliance.com/Recipes">StFrancisAlliance.com/Recipes</a> <b>23</b>	At 8:30 pm, join hundreds of millions of people around the world who will be switching off all lights for one hour to commit to global climate action and be more mindful of energy use: <a href="http://EarthHour.org">EarthHour.org</a> <b>24</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 25</b> We read that in the Kingdom of Heaven, people shall eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant (Isaiah 65). Start planning what you can plant to remind you of the promise of heaven this spring: <a href="http://bit.ly/vineyardfruit">bit.ly/vineyardfruit</a>	Make one of your journeys more environmentally friendly today. Could you combine two trips? Carpool rather than driving solo? Bike, walk, or take public transit, instead of driving? <b>26</b>	Phil. 2:5 <i>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.</i> Pray for the courage of Jesus to sustain your commitment to environmental justice (EJ). Read more about IPC's commitment to EJ at <a href="http://bit.ly/IPC-EJ">bit.ly/IPC-EJ</a> . <b>27</b>	<i>Although we have done everything that we can to separate ourselves from other(s)... from the land and its waters and from God, God has never left us.</i> — Bahnson & Wirzba How will you continue to walk this path after Easter? <b>28</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday 29</b> Today we remember Jesus's last supper with his disciples and his prayers in the garden of Gethsemane. Following Jesus' example, take time today to pray outdoors, remembering all who suffer.	<b>Good Friday 30</b> Matt. 27:51 <i>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The Earth shook, and the rocks were split.</i>	<b>Holy Saturday 31</b> <i>God looked at everything God had made, and found it very good.</i>  Take a walk and notice new life coming with spring and remember God's provision for us. Journal and take pictures of what you see.

**1** **Easter Sunday** — Col 1:19-20  
**APRIL** *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

"The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout Creation by his universal Lordship" — Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*  
*Trusting that the One has begun a good work in you will be faithful to complete it* (Philippians 1:6), take time to give thanks for the changes of heart and habit you have taken on since Lent began, and continue to live out your call to Creation stewardship with the hope of the resurrection always in your heart!



**Take some time today to reflect on all of the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the Earth and with all life. Conclude your Lenten Creation Care practice by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life.**