

On Sunday, April 21 or April 28, 2013 honour God's creation and

Celebrate Earth Day (April 22)

We are called to care for God's creation in our daily lives:

*"The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it."*

Psalm 24:1

An Earth Day Prayer

Holy and loving God, God of divine mystery,
On this Earth Day as we experience the birth of spring, you show us once again
your power to bring new life from the slumber of winter.

We give thanks for the diversity and wonder of this vulnerable planet which is
our home; the land, the air, the oceans and all living things that form the rich
tapestry of life that you have woven.

We pray for people whose lives and homelands are threatened by the
exploitation of your creation. We pray for those who struggle to survive
without clean water and with the growing scarcity of traditional resources that
have sustained them and their families through the ages.

We pray for the leaders of governments and industries throughout the world.
May they be given the vision and the commitment to protect the planet and
the well-being of all peoples.

We pray for Indigenous peoples and those involved in environmental
movements around the world who alert us to the consequences of not caring
for the earth and who challenge us to tread more lightly in God's creation.

We pray that the efforts of so many, may move us toward a sustainable and
just global community where all share equally in the bounty of your creation.

We are here as your children, as inhabitants of one earth. Help us to work
together to deepen our love, respect and responsibility for your world so that
none may suffer from our abuse of your sacred creation. Give us courage to go
out into the world to meet these challenges confident in your love for us and
trusting in your holy presence to guide and sustain us.

We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen

Written by The Rev. Mary Campbell. Rev. Campbell is a retired
Presbyterian minister and a member of the Justice Ministries Advisory Committee.

Activity Challenge

- Worship God. Pray, sing, and reflect on our calling to be caretakers of God's creation.
- Invite young people in your congregation to lead an Earth Day worship service, reflecting on their hopes and concerns for the future.
- Invite an Aboriginal elder to share traditional teachings about the relationship between human beings, the earth and the Creator.
- Buy locally. Shop at farmers' markets.
- Host a 100 mile meal at church. Eat less meat.
- Host a congregational star party. Learn about God's ongoing creation in distant galaxies. Invite a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to show you the night sky.
- Host a community forum on climate change.
- Learn about your ecological footprint (www.footprintnetwork.org).
- Conduct an energy audit of your church or home. See (www.kairoscanada.org) and (www.faiith-commongood.net/gss) for resources.
- Plan a nature prayer walk.
- Discontinue use of disposable products when alternatives exist.
- Reduce air travel. This is the single biggest step one person can take to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Leave your car at home. Walk, ride your bike or take transit to work one day per week.
- Read about the General Assembly's carbon footprint (see A&P 2010, pp. 440-446).