



Earthly Stewards:

What We Can Do for Our Planet .

- Guest speaker on Resurrection Hope on April 24, so planned early April but due to Women's Retreat had to move the topic to today. This gives us a chance to talk earlier, and perhaps have greater impact
- April 2021 at President Biden's climate change summit, Pope Francis said *"Both the global catastrophes, Covid and climate change, prove that we do not have time to wait. Time urges us, and as COVID-19 demonstrated, we do have the tools to face the loss. We have the instruments. This is the moment to act. We are at the edge."*

Earth Day
4/22/22



Scriptural Basis for Taking Care of Earth



- Genesis 1: ²⁷God created humanity in His image, created them male and female. ²⁸Then God blessed them and gave them this directive: “Be fruitful and multiply. Populate the earth. *I make you trustees of My estate, so care for My creation* and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that roams across the earth.” ...³¹God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!
- Genesis 2:15 “The LORD God took the man and put him in the *garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*”
- Deuteronomy 22:6-7 “If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you *shall not take the mother with the young. You shall let the mother go*, but the young you may take for yourself, that it may go well with you, and that you may live long.”
- 1 Peter 4:10 “As each has received a gift, use it to *serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace*”

Biblical Warnings if Not Good Earthly Stewards

- Numbers 35: ³³ *You shall not pollute the land in which you live*, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. ³⁴ *You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell in the midst of the people of Israel.*”
- Leviticus 25:23-24 - “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for *the land is mine*. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a *redemption of the land*.”
- Revelations 11:18 “The nations raged, but *your [God’s] wrath came, and the time* for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and *for destroying the destroyers of the earth*.”
- Revelations 21:1 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first *earth had passed away, and the sea was no more*.”



Our Home is God's Creation

- Psalms 8: *⁶You [God] have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"*
- Colossians 1:16-17 "For by [God] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—*all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*"

Let us not forget how blessed we are to live in this wondrous place. Since God has entrusted the earth to us, it is right for us to take care of the planet and do what we can to help the earth. We are not in control of the planet; however, we can make changes in our everyday life to show God we are being good stewards of what the Lord has given us.

Share This Gift

Perhaps proximity to nature, along with the experience of growing food and protecting wild species, helps raise awareness about the threat of climate change and the destruction of the natural world. A growing body of evidence shows that **connection with nature is linked to a desire to protect it**. But in an era when our eyes are glued to the mini-computers in the palms of our hands, contact with nature, while a fact of life for millennia, can seem radical. **Nurturing hope can be as simple as getting out and doing something!**



From **WHY** to *HOW* to be responsible



- [Jesus' top 2 commandments, Matthew 22:37-40]
- What do you do to help take care of the Earth?
- Remember, even tiny changes can add up over time to make a big difference
- Let's swap ways we do this, so collectively our individual choices add up to greater impact
- [Breakout Rooms to Brainstorm ideas]
- Here are some of the things I do...

Save some fossil fuel by rethinking Car Use

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine



- The average car emits 5,450 kilograms of carbon dioxide every year. More carbon means more heat trapped in our atmosphere, so using motor vehicles contributes to global warming
- By doing virtual church, I stop releasing 2193 pounds of CO₂ a year by not burning 117 gallons of fuel*. While my computer does use energy, it is only a fraction of driving at 1.54lbs CO₂ (reduced even further if use solar panel)
- Only drive when necessary. By walking to school & biking to the library we help earth and our health
- If must drive, plan on combining as many trips as possible to minimize how much & how far you drive by going the most efficient path; Carpool
- When using the car, turn off the engine for sitting longer than a minute to reduce idling pollution and don't 'warm up' the car before getting in
- Buy used. The process of making a new car from raw materials can produce almost 50 tons of co₂. Before a car is even on the road, will have produced 1/2 of all the air pollution it will create in its lifetime. Another 7% comes from its disposal, but 80% of car is recyclable and could save a significant amount of air pollution from entering the atmosphere

* less environmental impact if live nearer to CCPC, for example Crofton averages 76lbs CO₂/year

Wrangle Power Hogs

- In summer use less **AC** by increasing **thermostat**, using **fans**, **closing off areas** not used as much; **close blinds/drapes** if not in room to reduce solar heating. In winter, use **heater** less by **wearing more clothes**, **body heat by exercise**, or **cuddling** with pets/family; **closing blinds/drapes at night** to trap in heat; **block drafts by sealing** around doors & windows (avoid space heaters if at all possible because in addition to energy hog, also safety hazard)
- [Climates with cooler nights is to turn on your **ceiling fans in the evening while keeping your windows open**. The fans can draw in cool air all evening that will help keep the home cool into the next day]
- Set **water heater to lower temp** to save energy (or use tankless). Only use hot water to wash clothes when absolutely necessary.
- **Hang up clothes to dry** outside (or warm sunny room) when able. <Unplug **dryer** & other idle appliances when not in use>
- **Use natural light** whenever available. Not only save electricity, also get fresh air / window views. [Even turn off outdoor lights to prevent birds from getting confused & crashing into them; **blue/green spectrum is less attractive to birds**]
- **Run dishwasher only when full** ('rinse/hold' feature until then, better for **water pump** than handwashing because of water temp.)
- Particularly in summer, use **toaster** rather than big kitchen **oven** – uses less energy plus doesn't heat up home as much
- When cooking I put temp notch below max to quickly brown food, then **after putting on cover turn off stove** and let the food steam without using any energy. CAUTION: check proper temp on raw meat to make sure safe (I zap in **microwave** for a minute & recheck temp, if any doubt)
- Skip the **hair dryer** and let your hair just dry on its own. Skip curlers or irons, embrace a natural hair look.
- **Don't open fridge** door until know what you want. **Cover foods in fridge** because moisture released by foods make the compressor work harder. If in market for a new one, buy one right size for your family – **a full refrigerator uses less energy than on that's half empty**

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Waste



- Don't buy something unless truly need it, and even then think first what do you have already that could be utilized instead or what you'll give away in its place
- Did Xmas cards on recyclable paper this year, postcards to minimize paper from envelopes. Reuse empty envelopes/boxes get the mail
- Reduce paper waste by discontinuing mail-in catalogs & sign up for www.dmachoice.org. Electronic bills to reduce paper & transport
- Plant trees & other vegetation. Grow a garden for food, all-year-round varieties. Use native plants that naturally do best in area
- Compost everything you can. Even nail/hair clippings. Will give you good garden soil someday & less for landfill
- Even eat weeds that are edible, like dandelion – good for tea and salads (NOTE: we don't use any pesticides on our lawn)
- Rather than bagging leaves, gather them into mulch piles around the yard and compost area
- Avoid disposable products & ones with much packaging. In grocery store etc, utilize reusable bags rather than paper
- Bring own containers to restaurant for leftovers, so avoid takeout waste. Tell restaurants skip the straw, don't need more plastic utensils
- Reuse items once fulfilled original purpose, get creative! Fashion trends are cyclical, if you hold onto something long enough it'll be popular again. We use toilet paper rolls for growing seeds, newspaper in flower beds to reduce weeds
- Reuse teabags multiple times. Place used teabags as odor fighter, put in compost, fridge for eye packs– or use loose leaf tea so no bag
- Use washcloths instead of paper towels. Old socks & underwear mop up greasy messes in the garage. Wornout toothbrushes clean nooks & crannies around the house. Wear old clothes & shoes for yard or messy projects. Bread clips label wires & use as scrapers.
- Donate those things not using anymore, or could be better used by others
- Freecycle/swap or shop secondhand at yard sale or thrift/consignment stores
- Recycle phone <https://www.green-phone.com/> & other electronics <https://e-stewards.org/>. Lion Club recycles glasses

What more can we all do our limited resources to bring to our limitless God?

Carefully Reuse Masks & Dispose of Them Responsibly



- Put face masks (and other reusable items) by the window in direct sunlight for 2 weeks while **rotate masks**. If the sun not sterilize the mask, the 2-week time period will. **Reduces on wash and wear of masks**
- *For health care professionals*, the CDC suggests a **5-day rotation of N95** masks and can be used up to five times before they're compromised. Wear them for more than one day drops costs and environmental waste by at least 75% compared with using a new mask for every encounter with a patient
- Before throwing in trash, **cut off the ear loops** with a pair of scissors. Without the ear loops, there are fewer chances of the mask entangling wildlife in case it ends up in the environment



Simple Steps to Conserve Water



- Carry a **reusable water bottle** with you. Most **coffee** shops will fill your brought-from-home **mug or thermos**. At home we make **one full pot of coffee**, **refrigerate** what not use for several days & microwave
- **Wash hands over dirty dishes** sitting in kitchen sink, double use of water & soap rather than just going down the drain. Even pour flat soda into toilet since acid acts as a cleaner
- Turn off water when brushing teeth. I **only use water to rinse brush afterwards**. If really want water on toothbrush, wet it before adding toothpaste so not waste any paste down the drain
- At home **flush toilet only after #2**, save 30% household water and reduce N & P at cleaning facilities
- Take **fewer/shorter showers**. Start off warm but then cold water at end to save some energy & skin
- After boil pasta etc, **pour hot water outside on weeds** in sidewalk cracks or wait **until cool and water plants want to keep**. Saves on water usage, plus reduces damages to plumbing with boiling hot starchy water
- **Minimize watering grass**, use drainoff for rain barrels. Trickle water for **garden irrigation** hoses
- **Don't use chemicals** in yard. These poisons runoff into our waterways, and eventually find way to our drinking systems (not to mention killing animals and plants)
- Use **vines** to your advantage, tying up unruly vegetation and diving ends deep inside plant to

Other Solutions To Try



- Switching to a 2.5-gallon-per-minute (**low-flow showerhead**) and taking a **10-minute shower** not only saves you 5 gallons of water over taking a bath, it also saves up to \$145 each year in electricity
- Almost 80% of our drinking water goes to irrigation, laundry and toilets (10-minute shower uses about 25 gallons, load of laundry 40 gal, single sprinkler head can spray out 15 gal per min). In Marin County, systems installed to **capture and recycle water for outdoors**, also an app that sends an alert when residents **use too much**. The biggest water users face **finest** of more than \$500 on top of their regular bill (same idea for trash in Sweden; other ways govt helped is in early 2000s when ban phosphates from dishwasher detergents since create algae deadzones)
- People who change their motor oil to **recycle used oil** at a service station or repair facility. 2 gal of recycled motor oil can generate enough electricity to power your house for 24 hours. Discarded oil from a single oil change pollutes 1 million gal of freshwater, enough to fill 20k bathtubs
- **Air ducts with holes, clogs and leaks** can lose around 20 percent of the AC's and furnace's efficiency, so have your ducts looked at by a professional if you have any of these problems
- Join organizations near you with common goals. For example, the **Tree Troopers** or **Watershed Stewards** at aawsa.org
- **BE ENCOURAGED, IT'S WORKING & WITHIN OUR REACH** - Imagine if everyone did this, we could have true sustainability despite the crisis that we're in with climate

Even the food we eat makes a difference



- **Eat less meat.** Animal-based agriculture is responsible for about 15% of all worldwide emissions. By eating chicken instead of beef for one year, you will reduce CO2 output by 882 pounds, and by having just one vegetarian meal a week you could save the equivalent of driving 1,160 miles.
- Check source of food – is it **local? Sustainable? Shade-grown** coffee <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/buy-bird-friendly-coffee-online>
- A plastic surgeon managed to use fat remove in liposuction operations as fuel for his car (I plan on organ donation after die but not go this extreme)!
- Ask your electric provider about renewable energy options
- Look to the future for **nuclear fusion** (safer, less wasteful than today's fission): fusing 2 or more atoms into a larger one produces a tremendous amount of energy as heat. Requires only small amounts of abundant naturally sourced fuel. British experiment using elements deuterium and tritium (isotopes of hydrogen, which can be **found in seawater**) generate a **record-breaking 59 megajoules of sustained fusion energy over 5 seconds!** But 5 seconds is the limit the machine could sustain the power before its magnets overheat; a magnetic field is required to contain the high temperatures needed to carry out the fusion process, which can be as high as 150 million degrees C (10x hotter than the center of the sun). The ITER megaproject, in the south of France supported by the US, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea and Russia, is 80% built and aims to begin nuclear fusion sometime in 2025-26
- Meanwhile less painless option is to **VOTE your conscience**, write your **Congress people on policies** that matter to you & our planet. **Check your investments** to see if environmentally & morally responsible



YOU ARE HERE

Regardless of
how you do it,
hope you will
join me in
helping take
care of Our
Earthly Home
until we reach
Our Heavenly
Spiritual One 🙏