



## God's Relation with Creation

### A. God Created the Universe

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:1, 31)

"You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." (Nehemiah 9:6)

"He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight. He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it. The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke. By his power he churned up the sea.... By his breath the skies become fair.... And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! How then can we understand the thunder of his power?" (Job 26:7-9, 11-14)

"How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. (Psalm 104:24-25)

"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:3)

Christ "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him." (Colossians 1:15-16)

"In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe." (Hebrews 1:2)

### B. God Owns the Creation

"To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." (Deuteronomy 10:14)

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." (1 Chronicles 29:11)

"Everything under heaven belongs to me." (Job 41:11)

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." (Psalm 24:1-2; cf. Psalm 89:11; 1 Corinthians 10:26)

"For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."  
(Psalm 95:3-5)

### **C. God Loves the Creation**

"He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth." (Psalm 33:5-6)

"The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.... The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." (Psalm 145:9, 13; cf. Psalm 145:17)

### **D. God Values the Creation**

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

### **E. God Sustains the Creation**

"In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10)

"You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing."  
(Psalm 65:9-13)

"He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work. He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-bringing forth food from the earth." (Psalm 104:10-14)

"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17)

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." (Hebrews 1:3)

## **F. God Redeems the Creation**

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

"When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 104:29-30)

"The Lord will surely comfort Zion and look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord." (Isaiah 51:3; cf. Isaiah 41:18-20; Ezekiel 36:35)

"He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets." (Acts 3:21)

"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:19-21)

"Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:20; cf. Ephesians 1:10)

## **God's Relation with Animals**

### **A. God's Covenants with Animals**

"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you-the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-every living creature on earth." (Genesis 9:9-10)

"In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety." (Hosea 2:18)

### **B. God's Concern for Animals**

"And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you." (Genesis 6:19)

"Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief." (Exodus 23:12; cf. Deuteronomy 5:14)

"You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." (Deuteronomy 25:4)

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight." (Luke 12:6; cf. Matthew 10:29)

## **C. God's Promise to Animals**

"The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9)

## **Humans' Relation with Creation**

### **A. Command to Care for Creation**

"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)

"You must keep my decrees and my laws.... And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you." (Leviticus 18:26, 28)

"The land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and garner their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the Lord.... The land is to have a year of rest." (Leviticus 25:2-5; cf. Exodus 23:10-11)

"The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land." (Leviticus 25:23-24)

"If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." (Leviticus 26:3-4)

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live.... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the Israelites." (Numbers 35:33-34)

"If you besiege a town for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you must not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them. Although you may take food from them, you must not cut them

down. Are trees in the field human beings that they should come under siege from you?" (Deuteronomy 20:19)

### **B. Humans Have Defiled the Land**

"I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination." (Jeremiah 2:7)

"How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished." (Jeremiah 12:4)

"It will be made a wasteland, parched and desolate before me; the whole land will be laid waste because there is no one who cares." (Jeremiah 12:11)

"Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?" (Ezekiel 34:17-18)

"There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying." (Hosea 4:1-3)

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." (Romans 8:22)

### **C. Consequences of Defiling the Land**

"He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground, and fruitful land into a saltwaste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there." (Psalm 107:33-34)

"Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land. The LORD almighty has declared in my hearing: 'Surely the great houses will become desolate, the fine mansions left without occupants. A ten-acre vineyard will produce only a bath of wine, a homer of seed only an ephah of grain.'" (Isaiah 5:8-10)

"The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth; its inhabitants suffer for their guilt." (Isaiah 24:4-6) **Number 1 tested Scripture that people listen too.**

"You have polluted the land with your whoring and wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come." (Jeremiah 3:2-3)

"The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-and for destroying those who destroy the earth." (Revelation 11:18)

## **Creation's Relation with the Creator**

### **A. Creation Testifies of the Creator**

"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:7-10)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." (Psalm 19:1-4; cf. Psalm 97:6)

"Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

### **B. Creation Praises the Creator**

"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the Lord." (Psalm 96:11-13)

"Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away." (Psalm 148:1-6)

"Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds." (Psalm 148:7-10)

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

## Luke 23:39-43 (NIV)

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.<sup>[a]</sup>”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

## Revelation 21 (NIV)

A New Heaven and a New Earth

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’<sup>[b]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

## Additional Resources

### I. Scriptures Categorized According to Themes

1. God Created It
  - a. Genesis 1:1-2:3
  - b. Job 38-41
  - c. Mark 13:19
  - d. Job 12:7-10
  - e. Psalm 104
  - f. Job 33:4
  - g. Isaiah 40:26
  
2. God Loves It
  - a. Genesis 9:8-17

- b. Psalm 136
  - c. John 3:16
3. God has an Ongoing Relationship with It
- a. Numbers 22:22-39
4. God Owns It
- a. Leviticus 25:23-24
  - b. Deuteronomy 10:14
  - c. Psalms 24, 89:9-11, 95:4-5
5. Creation has a Relationship with God/Creation Praises God
- a. 1Chronicles 16:32-33
  - b. Psalms 19:1-4, 65:12-13, 66:1-4, 96:11-13, 98:7-9, 148:3-4,7-13, 150:6
  - c. Isaiah 55:12-13
  - d. 1 Corinthians 10:26
  - e. Revelation 5:13
6. A Relationship with Creation is Connected to a Relationship with God
- a. Genesis 4:10-11
  - b. 1 Kings 4:29-34
  - c. Ecclesiastes 3:18-22
  - d. Romans 1:20
7. Caring for Creation and Caring for the Poor are Interconnected
- a. Exodus 23:10-11
  - b. Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:1-17
  - c. Matthew 25:31-45
8. Human Obedience/Disobedience to God's Commandments has Consequences for Creation
- a. Deuteronomy 11:13-17, 28:4,18
  - b. Isaiah 24:1-3, 25:1-5, 44:1-5
  - c. Hosea 4:1-3
  - d. Micah 7:13
  - e. Zechariah 8:12
  - f. Galatians 6:7-9
9. Jesus as Part of Creation
- a. John 1:1-10, 17:24
  - b. Colossians 1:15-17
  - c. Hebrews 1:2



## 10. Jesus Prays in Deserted Places, Mountains, and Wilderness

- a. Mark 1:35
- b. Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:28, 22:31-41

## 11. Jesus as Redeemer of Creation

- a. Mark 16:15
- b. John 12:47
- c. Romans 8:18-23
- d. Ephesians 1:10
- e. Colossians 1: 19-20

## 12. Future Vision of a New Creation

- a. Isaiah 11:1-16
- b. Ezekiel 17:22-24, 36:33-36
- c. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
- d. Revelation 21:1-22:7

## 13. Human Response: A Simple, Equitable Life for All

- a. Exodus 16
- b. Deuteronomy 2:7
- c. Nehemiah 9:20-21
- d. Proverbs 6:6-8
- e. Ezekiel 34:11-31
- f. Micah 4:1-4
- g. Matthew 6:25-34
- h. Luke 12:6-28
- i. Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-36

## **Christians Leaders**

### **John Wesley on God's Creation**

“By acquainting ourselves with subjects in natural philosophy, we enter into a kind of association with nature’s works, and unite in the general concert of her extensive choir. By thus acquainting and familiarizing ourselves with the works of nature, we become as it were a member of her family, a participant in her felicities; but while we remain ignorant, we are like strangers and sojourners in a foreign land, unknowing and unknown.”

### **John Wesley, A Survey of the Wisdom of God in the Creation, 1:viii.**

The Christ of Creation: “[Christ] is now the life of everything that lives in any kind or degree. He is the source of the lowest species of life, that of vegetables; as being the source of all the motion on which

vegetation depends. He is the fountain of the life of animals, the power by which the heart beats, and the circulating juices flow. He is the fountain of all the life which man possesses in common with other animals. And if we distinguish the rational from the animal life, he is the source of this also.”

### **Sermon 77, “Spiritual Worship,” §II.3, Works 3:95.**

On Stewardship of Creation:

“We are now God’s stewards. We are indebted to him for all we have...A steward is not at liberty to use what is lodged in his hands as he pleases, but as his master pleases...He is not the owner of any of these things but barely entrusted with them by another...now this is exactly the case of everyone with relation to God. We are not at liberty to use what God has lodged in our hands as we please, but as God pleases, who alone is the possessor of heaven and earth and the Lord of every creature...[God] entrusts us with [this world’s goods] on this express condition, that we use them only as our Master’s goods, and according to the particular directions which he has given us in his Word.”

### **Sermon 51, “The Good Steward,” §II.1, Works 2:283-84.**

On Finding God in Creation: “The pure of heart see all things full of God. They see him in the firmament of heaven, in the moon walking in brightness, in the sun when he rejoiceth as a giant to run his course. They see him ‘making the clouds his chariots, and walking upon the wings of the wind.’ They see him ‘preparing rain for the earth,’ ‘and blessing the increase of it.’”

### **Sermon 23, “Sermon on the Mount, III,” §I.1, Works 1:513.**

III. Historical Voices on God’s Creation

#### **St. Irenaeus of Lyons (129-203)**

For even creation reveals Him who formed it, and the very work made suggests Him who made it, and the world manifests Him who ordered it. The Universal Church, moreover, through the whole world, has received this understanding from the Apostles themselves.

#### **St Athanasius (297-373)**

About the “Book of Creation,” he says, “the creatures are like letters proclaiming in loud voices to their Divine Master and Creator the harmony and order of things,” For this reason, God gave creation such order as is found therein, so that while He is by nature invisible, men might yet be able to know Him through His works.

#### **St. Basil the Great (329-379)**

I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you a clear remembrance of the Creator... One blade of grass or one speck of dust is enough to occupy your entire mind in beholding the art with which it has been made.

### **St. John Chrysostom (347-407)**

One way of coming to knowledge of God is that which is provided by the whole of creation; and another, is that which is offered by conscience....

### **St. Augustine (354-430)**

Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?

### **St. Maximus the Confessor (580-662)**

If, instead of stopping short at the outward appearance which visible things present to the senses, you seek with your intellect to contemplate their inner essences, seeing them as images of spiritual realities or as the inward principles of sensible objects, you will be taught that nothing belonging to the visible world is unclean. For by nature all things were created good.

### **St. John Damascene (675-749)**

The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.

### **John Scotus Eriugena (810-877)**

Christ wears "two shoes" in the world: scripture and nature. Both are necessary to understand the Lord, and at no stage can creation be seen as separation of things from God."

### **St. Bonaventure (1217-1274)**

Throughout the entire creation, the wisdom of God shines forth from Him and in Him, as in a mirror containing the beauty of all forms and lights and as in a book in which all things are written according to the deep secrets of God... Truly, whoever reads this book will find life and will draw salvation from the Lord.

### **St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)**

Any error about creation also leads to an error about God.

## **Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.

## **John Calvin (1509-1564)**

It is the wisdom of men to search out God's works, and to set their minds wholly upon them. And God has also ordained the world to be like a theater upon which to behold his goodness.

There is a kind of mutual bargain between the land and the husbandmen, that it gives back with usury what it has received: if it does not, it deceives those who cultivate it. But he assigns a reason, imputing blame to them, that they render it barren by their wickedness. It is owing to our fault that it [the earth] does not nourish us or bring forth fruit, as God appointed to be done by the regular order of nature; for he wished that it should hold the place of a mother to us, to supply us with food; and *if it change its nature and order, or lose its fertility, we ought to attribute it to our sins, since we ourselves have reversed the order which God had appointed*; otherwise the earth would never deceive us, but would perform her duty.

## **Jacob Boehme (1575-1624)**

Everything we see in nature is manifested truth; only we are not able to recognize it unless truth is manifest within ourselves....

## **Fyodor Dostoyevski (1821-1881)**

Love all of God's creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light! Love the animals. Love the plants; love everything. If you love everything, you will soon perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

## **George Washington Carver (1864-1943)**

Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.

## **Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984)**

"The simple fact is that if man [sic] is not able to solve his [sic] ecological problems, then man's [sic] resources are going to die."

"The tree in the field is to be treated with respect. It is not to be romanticized as the old lady romanticizes her cat (that is, she reads human reactions into it). . . . But while we should not romanticize the tree, we must realize that God made it and it deserves respect because he made it *as a tree*."

Christians who do not believe in the complete evolutionary scale have reason to respect nature as the total evolutionist never can, because we believe that God made these things specifically in their own areas. So if we are going to argue against evolutionists intellectually, we should show the results of our beliefs in our attitudes. The Christian is a man who has a reason for dealing with each created thing on a high level of respect.”

— [Francis A. Schaeffer](#), *Pollution & the Death of Man*

If God treats the tree like a tree, the machine like a machine, the man like a man, shouldn't I, as a fellow-creature, do the same -- treating each thing in integrity in its own order? And for the highest reason: because I love God -- I love the One who has made it! Loving the Lover who has made it, I have respect for the thing He has made. (Francis A. Schaeffer, *Pollution and the Death of Man*),

Clearly, man's [sic] actions have a direct impact on the natural realm. That relationship is also moral. Why? Because its involves a moral choice that impacts the environment and people ... A truly Biblical Christianity has a real answer to the environmental crisis. It offers a balanced and healthy attitude to nature, arising from the truth of its creation by God; and it offers hope of substantial healing in nature of some of the results of the Fall, arising from the truth of the redemption in Christ. (*Pollution & the Death of Man*)

Modern man [sic] has seen that we are upsetting the balance of nature and the problem is drastic and urgent. It is not just a matter of aesthesis, nor is the problem only future; the quality of life has already diminished for many men [sic]. (*Pollution & the Death of Man*)

**The Rev. Dr. Jim Ball** –

### ***Global Warming and the Risen Lord***

Americans hold freedom especially dear. We are the beneficiaries of the blood of patriots who gave their lives on the altar of freedom, from the American Revolution through the Civil War and up to our own time. We are a freedom-loving people who fight to maintain and expand our freedom because we know how precious and costly it is. For freedom-loving people like us, global warming is a worldwide scourge, similar to how communism was in the twentieth century. Global warming is a freedom denier, a freedom destroyer, not only in terms of denying opportunities for individuals, but potentially for the cause of freedom in entire countries.

**The Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox**

“From the beginning we were created to be God’s stewards or caretakers of His creation; we were given the freedom to care for it and for each other, or go our own way and selfishly look to our own interests and desires. Sadly, human history shows us that too often we have chosen the latter.

## Creation Care Scriptures

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Today, human-induced climate change works against our call to love others and care for God's creation. Its impacts on creation are already a threat to our children and therefore a pro-life concern. Overcoming climate change is an act of discipleship, stewarding what was created for and through [Jesus, the Christ](#)."

"God created us in His image and breathed into us the breath of life. We were created special --with special responsibilities to care for each other and to care for all of God's creation."

"Our nation must empower a second "Greatest Generation" who similar to the mobilization required for overcoming fascism; provide the leadership for a clean energy revolution."

"In the middle of the wilderness, Moses faced a revolt as many wanted to return to their known life of slavery instead of moving forward toward freedom's hope in the Promised Land. However, those living in much of the majority world don't have 40 years for us to grapple with our fear (of changing to a clean energy economy). Fear exacerbates our reality and delays God's hope for us all. It's time to reject fear and those who profit from it and move forward together in love, Jesus' love for all God's children."

"Just as we are called to love our neighbor, not subjugate him or her, the same applies to creation we may not simply do as we please. Genesis 2:15 instructs humanity to tend and care for God's garden, and Psalm 24:1-2 declares that the earth and everything in it belongs to God. How in God's Kingdom did we ever assume that the earth was to be trashed or misused in anyway? Genesis reports just the opposite. The earth supplies the necessities for biological life; God designed creation for exactly that purpose. For life to prosper, humans are to enable the garden to flourish. God created and was the first gardener. Now we have been clearly given the responsibility, as created in God's image, to reflect his image, God's presence, by caring for creation."

### Prayers

Supplemental prayers honoring God's creation:

"How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare Your glory, the arch of sky displays Your handiwork. In Your love You have given us the power to behold the beauty of Your world robed in all its splendor. The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills, the rivers and lakes all disclose Your presence. The roaring breakers of the sea tell of Your awesome might; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air bespeak Your wondrous will. In Your goodness You have made us able to hear the music of the world. The voices of loved ones reveal to us that You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation." --a Jewish prayer, found on page 57 of *Earth Prayers From Around theWorld: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

"O Lord, Thou art on the sandbanks, As well as in the midst of the current; I bow to Thee. Thou art in the little pebbles, As well as in the calm expanse of the sea; I bow to Thee. O all-pervading Lord, Thou art in the barren soil, And in crowded places; I bow to Thee." --Sukla Yajur, Veda XVI, found on page 59 of *Earth*

Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

“Ancient sun, eternally young, giver of life and source of energy, In coal and oil, in plant and wind and tide, in spiritual light and human embrace, You kindle the heavens, you shine within us (for we are suns with hearts a fire--we light the world as you light the sky and find clouds within whose shadows are dark); We give thanks for your rays, and clouds your rays draw up, for the sky route you travel faithfully as we traverse this globe, For our journeys of earth which draw us together, for our journeys of dream which sustain us when apart. Ancient of Days, you rule the nations, our birth and death: our journeys you have wrought. Loam we become for your fertile spirit. Your cosmic light penetrates our depths; In your majesty we are bound to one another. We gather this morning as did people of old with joys and woes, varied gifts and diverse needs. We offer you these in thanksgiving for life and share them through your generations on earth.” --by Congregation of Abraxas found on page 140 of Earth Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

“Hail Mother, who art the earth, Hallowed by thy soil, rocks and flora that nourish and support all life. Blessed be thy wind that gives us breath and thy waters that quench, bathe and refresh all living things. Holy Earth—as one--we praise your majesty, grace and wonder.” --by Bill Faherty, found on page 157 of Earth Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

“Lord, may we love all your creation, all the earth and every grain of sand in it. May we love every leaf, every ray of your light. May we love the animals: you have given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Let us not trouble it; let us not harass them, let us not deprive them of their happiness, let us not work against your intent. For we acknowledge unto you that all is like an ocean, all is flowing and blending, and that to withhold any measure of love from anything in your universe is to withhold that same measure from you. Amen.”--a prayer spoken by Fyodor Dostoevsky

“O Lord, One tiny bit of water rests on the palm of my hand. I bring it to you and with it I bring the whole ocean. This tiny drop has the power to ease the burning thirst of men; when spread on the earth, to give life to the seed and the future harvest; when poured on the fire to quench the blaze. A tiny drop of water can cleanse the whole of my impurity when blessed by your forgiveness. But, O Lord, more than all this, this tiny drop of water passed over my head is the symbol of my birth in You.” --by Ishpriya R.S.C.J., found on page 164 of Earth Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

“Waters, carry far away all of this that has gone bad in me, either what I have done in malicious deceit or whatever lie I have sworn to.” --Part of a Hindu prayer, found on page 153 of Earth Prayers From Around

the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

“Now Talking God, With your feet I walk, I walk with your limbs, I carry forth your body, For me your mind thinks, Your voice speaks for me, Beauty is before me, And beauty is behind me, Above and below me hovers the beautiful, I am surrounded by it, I am immersed in it, In my youth I am aware of it, And in old age I shall walk quietly, The beautiful trail.” --A Native American prayer found on page 32 of Earth Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems, and Invocations for Honoring Earth, edited by Elizabeth Roberts & Elias Amidon, 1991.

O most high, omnipotent, Lord, God, to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing. For our brother the sun, who is our day and who brings us the light, who is fair, and radiant with a very great splendor; Praised be our Lord. For our sister the moon, and for the stars, which you have set clear and lovely in heaven; For our brother the wind, and for air and clouds, calms and all weather; For our sister water, who serves us and is humble and precious and chaste; For our brother fire, by whom you light up the night, and who is fair and merry, and very mighty and strong; For our mother the earth, who sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth various fruits, and flowers of many colors, and grass; For all those who pardon one another for your love's sake, and who bear weakness and tribulation; Blessed are they who peaceably shall endure, walking by your most holy will; for you, O Most High, shall give them a crown. Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks unto God, and serve God with great humility. Amen. (A prayer of Saint Francis 12th century)

<http://www.creationcare.org> is the website for the Evangelical Environmental Network.