



FAITH | ENVIRONMENT

A Litany of an Environmental Confession

by Carlos J. Correa Bernier, Minister for Environmental Justice, United Church of Christ

Reader 1: God you created our planet, the birds, fish and other animals and you saw that all created things were good.

Reader 2: God of life, You also created us, the human family to be your viceroys and to act compassionately and gently towards all forms of life.

People: Remind us, O God, and help us to change.

Reader 1: We confess that we often forget that we are utterly dependent upon you and interdependent with the rest of your creation.

Reader 2: God of creation, we confess that instead of acting compassionately and gently toward all forms of life, humanity had behaved wantonly and recklessly.

People: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

Reader 1: God of compassion, our land lies polluted under our feet, and we see members of the animal kingdom, on land and in sea, dying as a result of the contamination that we have created.

Reader 2: God of grace, we confess that we are damaging the earth, the home that you have given us through our consumerism and the use of products that are constantly polluting our air, land, and water, harming wildlife and endangering human health.

People: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

Reader 1: God of wisdom, help us understand that whatever we do to the web of life we do to ourselves.

Reader 2: God of power, help us acknowledge that we must act now and wake up to our moral obligations and that the future of our beautiful planet is in our hands.”

People: Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

All: Today we confess that we have not done enough to protect our planet. We confess that we have failed to insist that our government set standards based on precaution. We confess that we, as consumers, have allowed companies to release dangerous toxins that destroy fragile ecosystems and harm human beings, especially those among us who are most vulnerable.

God of justice, help us understand the need and to send a clear signal to our political leaders about making the crucial choice between the present path of “destructiveness” - or the morally responsible path of compassion and respect for life, acknowledging our dependence upon you and our interconnectedness with all creation.

Reader 1: God of grace and salvation, today we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the pain of our planet. We open our hearts to your truth, to see in you the way of healing and hope for our planet. We are beloved children of God, forgiven, renewed, and sent out into the world to work for the healing of our planet and for justice, in faithfulness to God.