

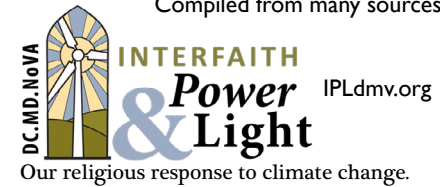
Maryland *Because the world can change a lot in 40 days.*

Lenten Creation Care 2021

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>A prayer from Psalm 51:</p> <p><i>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. 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.</i></p>			<p>FEBRUARY 17</p> <p>Ash Wednesday <i>"All are from the dust, and to dust all return."</i> - Ecclesiastes 3:20</p> <p>Reflect with gratitude on the reality that we all are made of and fed by the earth.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Tonight @ 6 pm, join Creation Justice Ministries for "ResiLENT Worship: Preaching Our Way to Climate Resilience," an online workshop on incorporating climate-resilient worship in your community: bit.ly/CJMresilience</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>"Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths."</i> - Psalm 25:4 The path to climate justice passes through every other struggle we face. Listen to NAACP's Jacqui Patterson on intersectionality: bit.ly/intersectionalpodcast</p>	<p>20</p> <p>However your church is worshipping right now, consider ordering "eco palms" for Palm Sunday. They help improve workers' living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/5: EcoPalms.org</p>
<p>Read Psalm 25. 21</p> <p>As we continue to grieve all that has been lost in the last year and all that is being lost to climate damage, spend some time outside today, taking deep breaths and making space for grief and lament.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Is your local stream clean enough for baptism? Find your waterway and its health: mywaterway.epa.gov. Pray: <i>"God of sacred waters, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. May we be a blessing to Your waters."</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree. In cold weather, 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>24</p> <p>Love your neighbor by urging your legislators to support a just transition for workers and the closure of the last coal plants in MD through the Coal Community Transition Act: IPLdmv.org/lightingthewaymd</p>	<p>25</p> <p>With gratitude for Earth's blessings, honor the sacred bond with our Creator by encouraging your congregation to sign Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's Partner Congregation Pledge: bit.ly/ipcpledge</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for centuries. Try eating vegetarian today and check out Oxfam's Eat for Good program for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Learn about Indigenous Peoples near you: egis.hud.gov/tdat. Practice acknowledging the original people of the land — use native-land.ca to search — where you live, work, and pray: CreationJustice.org/indigenous</p>
<p><i>"I am establishing my covenant with you, your descendants, and with every living creature ..."</i> - Gen. 9:9-10 Pick a spiritual practice and experience the interdependence of Creation: CenterForSpiritualityInNature.org/practices</p> <p>28</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p> <p>What role does your church community play in repairing our climate? Get involved with our green work, and flock together with other "green sheep" through IPL-DMV: bit.ly/IPLsignup</p>	<p>2</p> <p>In the US, > 30% of all food is wasted. Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Compost what's left at home or get table scraps picked up: CompostCrew.com, BaltimoreCompostCollective.org, KeyCompost.com</p>	<p>3</p> <p>MD's transit systems are some of the least reliable in the country. The Transit Safety & Investment Act would fund much-needed maintenance for our trains, tracks, and buses: InterfaithChesapeake.org/transit_equity_012021</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Tonight @ 7 pm, join IPC on their monthly Learning Lab webinar to learn how to tell a story that inspires others to protect and restore our local waterways: InterfaithChesapeake.org/inspiringstory</p>	<p>5</p> <p>The Climate Solutions Now Act sets a timeline for getting MD to zero climate pollution, plus immediate action for environmental justice. Contact your legislators: CCANactionfund.org/maryland/climate-solutions-now</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>"The Lord God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."</i> - Gen. 2:15 Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors! An herb garden in your kitchen window can be an easy way to start.</p>

URLs that begin with bit.ly are case-sensitive; all other links are not.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Rest today. Take a break from the TV and internet. Turn off everything, and unplug it if you can. Play a game, go for a walk, or read a book! Read Blessed Earth's resources on Sabbath living: SabbathLiving.org 7	Green grass lawns are not so "green." Learn how to cultivate grounds that are good for people, plants, and creatures at home: bit.ly/greenergrounds , and at church: bit.ly/sacredchurchgrounds 8	Listen today to this powerful conversation among three Christian climate leaders from Sojourners, calling us to move from Creation care to climate discipleship: bit.ly/sojopanel 9	Care for Creation and support clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels: GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest , and choosing a bank that aligns with your values: GreenAmerica.org/better-banking 10	The Environmental Human Rights Amendment would enshrine the right to a healthy environment for all of our MD neighbors in our state constitution. Email your legislators: bit.ly/envrightsamend 11	Purchase locally-grown food this weekend. Walk to a farmers' market or join a community-supported agriculture group: LocalHarvest.org or sign up to receive rescued produce weekly: HungryHarvest.net 12	In your home, replace incandescent and compact fluorescent lights with LEDs. Each bulb replaced will save hundreds of pounds of climate pollution over time. Google your utility for rebate and incentive programs. 13
"For God so loved the Cosmos ..." - John 3:16 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 sometimes fall outside your circle of love. 14	Plastic bags are both wasteful and harmful. Fast from plastic bags this Lent, and let your legislators know that you support reducing our reliance on single-use plastics: InterfaithChesapeake.org/bag_ban_012021 15	Use cleaner energy at home. See if you can go solar at home: SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/maryland , RetrofitBaltimore.com , Civicworks.com/ipl , or subscribe to a community solar project: nsunsolar.com/ipl 16	"On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and its leaves are for the healing of the nations." - Rev. 22:2 Plant native trees for healing during Earth Month! Use this coupon to buy a tree: bit.ly/MDtreecoupon 17	IPC's online trainings can help strengthen your congregation's green team this spring: InterfaithChesapeake.org/greenteams and sign up for more: bit.ly/IPCgreenteam 18	As you fast from meat today, consider plant-based dishes for Easter Sunday: StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes 19	"Whoever serves me must follow me ..." - John 12:26a Pray for all our neighbors who face environmental devastation and for the courage of Jesus to sustain your commitment to environmental justice. Read more: bit.ly/IPC-ej 20
"God of grace and salvation, today we open our ... hearts to the pain of our planet." Reflect on the role the church has had in the degradation of Creation; consider reciting this litany with your church: bit.ly/envconfession 21	One impactful action you can take right now? Talk to people in your life about the climate crisis. Listen to this podcast for tools for opening conversations and confronting climate silence: bit.ly/interfaithpod 22	God's children are coming together to care for Creation. Learn how our Muslim neighbors are going green: bit.ly/greeningcomic , including using their own "green" calendar during Ramadan: IPLdmv.org/ramadan 23	How will your church celebrate Earth Day next month? Invite a guest speaker: IPLdmv.org/speakers and find worship resources: InterfaithChesapeake.org/materials , CreationJustice.org/earth-day-sunday 24	Many area faith communities are getting their energy from above! Check out this map of solar congregations in the region, and find resources to help your congregation join them: IPLdmv.org/go-green/solar 25	<i>God of Restoration, you call us to be good stewards of the Earth.</i> Putting faith into action, ask your congregation to sign the Partner Congregation Pledge today: bit.ly/ipcpledge 26	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 more mindful energy use: EarthHour.org 27
Palm Sunday 28 Pray: "God of wilderness and water, guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance ..." - Revised Common Lectionary	Yesterday at sundown, our Jewish neighbors began the counting of the Omer, marking the seven weeks between Pesach and Shavuot. They'll be counting mindfully, just as we are, with a "Climate Omer" calendar: IPLdmv.org/omer 29	Consider the gifts given to you. Pray about how you are called to use your time, talent, passion, and treasure to care for our common home. 30	Talk with your family and community members about your Lenten Creation care journey. What ideas do you have to continue your stewardship into the Easter season? 31	Maundy Thursday 1 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.	Good Friday 2 Jesus made a willing sacrifice, but too many of our communities are forced to be "sacrifice zones," where health is sacrificed for profit by our dirty fossil fuel economy. Read more: UCC.org/breathtothepeople	Holy Saturday 3 "Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning." - Lam. 3:22-23a Take a walk and notice signs of new life and resurrection in your neighborhood.

APRIL

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

"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 in the words of Philippians 1:6, "that the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion," 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.