

CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION

*Adopted from the Carbon Fast For Lent by GREEN Anglicans by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Litany and Collect for Ash Wednesday & Culminating Activity:

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

Lent is a time for fasting, reflections, and meditations. More than that, let’s spend our Lent on reflecting how we can help God’s creations – by looking at the things that damage our environment and acting out in response to the environmental stewardship entitled to us. The eight and a half weeks is also a preparation for the upcoming 5th EDD Diocesan Convention this coming April 4-8, 2016 bearing the theme “Caring for God’s Creation: An Imperative to Christian Discipleship”

We are also joining the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, USA and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa in the holy observance of Lent through fasting.

Ash Wednesday, Feb 10

“Hear the cry of the Earth”

Let us reflect on our impact on the Earth. What have we done to our Earth? Take a moment to watch the sunrise or the sunset, and fully absorb the miracle of light and our life here on Earth! Think about all the living creatures that rely on the Earth to survive. Listen, notice and feel your environment. What are its needs?

FOOD	<p>Sunday, Feb 14</p> <p>How is your church showing LOVE for the environment?</p> <p>Job 12:7-10</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Feb 15-20</p> <p>“Life of every creature and the breath of all mankind”</p> <p>Massive food production is one of the destructive activities to our environment as agriculture is also a vulnerable sector of climate change and global warming. Let us be conscious of our food intake this week and ask ourselves, “how can the choice of our food help our environment?” We can reduce our meat consumption or prepare more vegetable dishes this week!</p>
ENERGY	<p>Sunday, Feb 21</p> <p>How is your church saving energy? Are the lights energy saving?</p> <p>2 Sam 22:29</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Feb 22-27</p> <p>“The Lord turns my darkness into light”</p> <p>Here in the Philippines, the energy crisis is greatly felt in most regions especially in Mindanao where constant brownouts are happening. Reflect on your usage of energy and ask, “what we can I do to save energy?” Challenge yourself to a No Electronics Day!</p>
WASTE	<p>Sunday, Feb 28</p> <p>Does your church recycle? What happens to your church’s waste?</p> <p>John 6:12-14</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Feb 29-Mar 2</p> <p>“Let nothing be wasted”</p> <p>Let us aim for zero waste and plastic-free environment! Look at the size of your rubbish and ask yourself how you can reduce your garbage. Separating biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes is one good idea. Gratitude is the attitude – let us appreciate more the things we have that might lessen our waste in the long run.</p>
WATER	<p>Sunday, Mar 6</p> <p>Water is sacred: How ‘water-savvy’ is your church? Look at the bathrooms and kitchens.</p> <p>John 4:7-15</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Mar 7-12</p> <p>“A spring of water welling up to eternal life”</p> <p>Water is life and saving it for the next generation would be our greatest gift to them. In our homes/workplaces, how can we save water? Lesser shower time? Check the leaks on our water pipes? Think about the Christian rituals of baptisms and Eucharist – how is water sacred?</p>
AIR	<p>Sunday, Mar 13</p> <p>Air is a way to holiness. Feel the presence of the air and open our church windows.</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 4:17</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Mar 14-19</p> <p>“Together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air”</p> <p>Let us appreciate the air we breathe! Relax once in a while; inhale, exhale. What can we do to lessen the air pollution? Report smoke belching vehicles to your local air agency. Walk more, ride less. Join the Earth Hour! Turn of your lights from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM this Saturday.</p>
PLANTS	<p>Sunday, Mar 20</p> <p>How Green is your Church? Walk around & dream of what could be grown.</p> <p>Genesis 1:11-12</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Mar 21-26</p> <p>Holy Thursday, Mar 24 // Good Friday, Mar 25 // Black Saturday, Mar 26</p> <p>“Let the land produce vegetation”</p> <p>Ponder this: What does it mean to be “of the Earth?” Be a Gardener – Grow herbs, vegetables or plants in your home/workplace. Do not burn leaves in your garden; put them in a compost pit. What can we do to bring back the green Earth that God once created?</p>
EARTH	<p>Easter Sunday, Mar 27</p> <p>Hug a tree for Easter Sunday! How can we designate some funds from our churches for environmental projects?</p> <p>Proverbs 11:23-30</p>	<p>Monday-Saturday, Mar 28-Apr 2</p> <p>“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life”</p> <p>Let us all exercise these 3 R’s: Reuse! Recycle! Reduce! Share your love to Mother Earth and teach children, friends, and family about your various learning.</p>
HUMANITY	<p>Sunday, Apr 3</p> <p>Let us dedicate our prayers for the success of the EDD Diocesan Convention. How are we humans as stewards of God’s creation?</p> <p>Genesis 1:26-27</p>	<div><p>Monday-Thursday, Apr 4-7</p><p>“Let them rule all over the earth”</p><p>Humans are God’s creations too but handed with a responsibility of taking care of His other creations. Let us all reflect on our whole experience and ask ourselves, what are the things that we will continue doing for the rest of year?</p></div> <div><p>Thursday, Apr 8</p><p>Join the culminating activity at the Convention Tree Planting!</p></div>

5th EDD Diocesan Convention

Prayers of the People

We give you thanks and praise, O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you have made, saying We thank you, God.
For the healing waters of creation, which bring pleasure and health, purity and life, *We thank you, God.
For the richness of the good Earth that brings forth fruits and flowers, a pleasure to taste and a joy to behold, *We thank you, God.
For the soaring birds of the air, the crawling creatures on the Earth, the gliding fishes in the seas, for all creatures great and small with whom we share this precious web of life, *We thank you, God.
For the invigorating sunlight of day, the deepening mystery of night, the wonder of the stars, and the call of the unknown in the universe, *We thank you, God.
From heedless misuse and dishonoring of the wonders of your hand, *Good Lord deliver us.
From squandering resources, abusing our companion species, and polluting the habitat we all share, *Good Lord deliver us.
From the folly of imagining ourselves free from the fate of your whole creation, *Good Lord deliver us.
For the courage and wisdom to confess how little we have cared for your gifts, *Strengthen us, O Spirit.
For the conviction that you have called us to love and restore the Earth, *Strengthen us, O Spirit.
For repentance and the determination to begin our stewardship anew, *Strengthen us, O Spirit.

