

Maryland Because our world can change a lot in 40 days.

Lenten Creation Care 2024

This Lenten Season, let us reflect on how we can join God in creating righteousness and justice on the earth. What seeds are we planting so that we can have clean air? What oaks are rooted in love and justice so our watershed can be restored? How are we, as people of faith and good conscience, coming together to ensure we have a livable home for all creation? Each day, take a moment to reflect on the scripture and take action to bring liberation to all living things.

Compiled from many sources by...

 IPLdmv.org/lent
 Our religious response to climate change.

and  Interfaith Partners for the CHESAPEAKE
 InterfaithChesapeake.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory."</i> – Isaiah 61</p>			<p>FEBRUARY 14 Ash Wednesday <i>"For the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom..."</i> - Joel 2:1-2</p> <p>Spend the day reflecting on the suffering and injustice caused by humankind.</p>	<p>15 <i>"So we are ambassadors for Christ..."</i> - 2 Cor. 5:20 Reflect on your call to be an ambassador, and consider joining IPC's Faith & Waters Restoration Summit on Monday: interfaithchesapeake.org/events</p>	<p>16 For all that has breath, we must raise our voices to get Maryland off gas. Join IPL, AIM and partners in Annapolis to advocate for climate, health, and safe housing on Wednesday 2/21: bit.ly/aimipl21</p>	<p>17 Talk with your church about ordering "eco palms" for Palm Sunday. They help improve workers' living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/1: EcoPalms.org</p>
<p>18 <i>"... good news to the poor."</i> - Isaiah 61:1</p> <p>No community is disposable. Learn how environmental racism has enabled "sacrifice zones" and how to join our neighbors in this fight: bit.ly/ted_sacrificezones</p>	<p>19 <i>"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities."</i> - Romans 13:1 For Presidents' Day, recall that democracy offers a shared authority for self-governance. How can your community ensure all voices are heard?</p>	<p>20 For all that has breath, let's electrify our homes. Look up benefits available from the Inflation Reduction Act with Rewiring America's calculator: rewiringamerica.org</p>	<p>21 Send blessings to advocates from AIM, PATH, and ACT speaking out in Annapolis today to move Maryland beyond gas! Raise your voice, too: beyondgasmd.org</p>	<p>22 <i>"They will rebuild the ancient ruins."</i> - Isaiah 61:4 As people of faith, we are called to make the injustices of colonization right. Visit native-land.ca to learn about the Indigenous peoples of the places where you reside.</p>	<p>23 Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for generations. Try eating vegetarian today and check out Oxfam's Eat for Good resource online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good</p>	<p>24 <i>"After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits."</i> - 1 Peter 3:19</p> <p>Support the work of Out for Justice, reintegrating returning neighbors: out4justice.org</p>
<p>25 <i>"Who then is the one who condemns? No one."</i> - Romans 8:34 The United Church of Christ has worked on environmental racism since the 80's. Learn more and incorporate anti-racism into your worship. bit.ly/uccenvracism</p>	<p>26 Join IPL's Maddie and Josh for Solar Shepherds: monthly solar, clean energy, efficiency education program for our congregations. Every 4th Monday at 7 pm on Zoom: ipldmv.org/solar</p>	<p>27 There's no reason to build a gas-burning building in Maryland ever again. Learn about ways to electrify at home, and speak out for the Better Buildings Act: beyondgasmd.org</p>	<p>28 <i>"Do unto those downstream,"</i> teaches Wendell Berry, <i>"as you'd have those upstream do unto you."</i> Affirm your church's watershed stewardship by signing IPC's Partner Congregation Pledge: bit.ly/IPCpledge</p>	<p>29 <i>"In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun."</i> - Psalm 19:4</p> <p>EmPOWER Maryland helps folks across Maryland save energy at home and at church: bit.ly/empowerMD</p>	<p>MARCH 1 Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's Faithful Green Leaders training can help strengthen environmental stewardship efforts at your church. Sign your team up for the next one, starting in June: bit.ly/ipc_training</p>	<p>2 How can your church community help repair our climate? Join with other communities called by many traditions to this sacred work, and flock together with other "green sheep" through IPL-DMV: bit.ly/IPLsignup</p>

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake can support you and your congregation in stewarding our land and streams: interfaithchesapeake.org/resources 3	In Piscataway oral tradition, we are in the season of the 13th month, "when the moon fits in a thumbnail." It is a time of emergence and growth. Learn more Indigenous wisdom from Peter Brooks: bit.ly/pbytpway 4	Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Consider composting what's left at home or get table scraps picked up: CompostCrew.com , VeteranCompost.com , KeyCompost.com 5	"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." - Psalm 25:4 6 Take a mindful winter walk with guidance from the Center for Spirituality in Nature: centerforspiritualityinnature.org/self-guided-programs	"The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds." - Genesis 1:12 7 Look up nourishing plants for your zip code at nativeplantfinder.nwf.org	International Women's Day 8 On this International Women's Day, connect with the All That We Can Save Project, built around the voices of 60 women at the forefront of climate work: allwecansave.earth	Water is life! On average, a family of four in the US uses 40 gallons of water per day just in the shower! Set a timer for 5 minutes and consider installing a low-flow shower head: bit.ly/epashowerheads 9
"I will make [Abraham] very fruitful; I will make nations of you..." - Genesis 17:6 Pray for Muslim communities entering Ramadan tonight. How can we join our religious siblings to protect our common home? 10	"On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and its leaves are for the healing of the nations." - Revelation 22:2 Explore planting a native tree at home or at church: bit.ly/mdtrees 11	How could we heat and cool our buildings without causing harm? Heat pumps are a solution! Watch IPL's webinar on Holy Heat Pumps: bit.ly/holy_heatpumps , and learn more about incentives at rewiringamerica.org 12	"He replied, 'You give them something to eat.'" - Luke 9:31 Support the Black Church Food Security Network and learn how churches garden to care for the environment and feed our neighbors: blackchurchfoodsecurity.net 13	"Let there be light!" - Genesis 1 14 Could your congregational facility go solar? Explore IPL's solar congregations map and learn about no-money-down solar financing at ipldmv.org/solar	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 15	"God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." - Genesis 2:15 16 Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors: bit.ly/gavictorygardens
Take climate action locally with groups like Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick County, or start your own! ipldmv.org/greengroups 17	Is your stove burning methane gas? With more evidence that gas stoves pollute our air indoors and our climate, it's time to turn away from burning at home: bit.ly/gasstoves 18	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 19	All are called to repair our climate. In April, our Jewish neighbors will gather for Passover seders to retell their story. Learn some Jewish teachings for climate action: dayenu.org/resources 20	Caring for creation includes responsibly disposing of electronics. Organize "E-cycling" for your congregation to dispose of old phones, tablets, computers, and TVs responsibly: e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler 21	How will your church celebrate Earth Day on April 22? Invite a guest speaker: IPLdmv.org/speakers and find worship resources: InterfaithChesapeake.org/materials , bit.ly/cjmearthday 22	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 23
Palm Sunday 24 Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem threatened the status quo and the safety of all those living under Roman rule. - Mark 11:1-10 Discuss with others the role civil disobedience plays for people of faith.	The Angel Gabriel proclaimed the birth of Jesus to Mary. Eco-feminist author Rebecca Solnit proclaims how to address climate change in her book <i>Not Too Late</i> . Listen to her speak: bit.ly/solnitinterview 25	"A voice cries out in the wilderness." - Mark 1:3 26 As people of faith, we must use our voice to call for climate justice. Make a plan to vote. Help ensure all have access to the ballot box: vote.gov	Ask: How can I be a part of faithful stewardship? What is mine to do? Listen to the BTS Center's podcast <i>Climate Changed</i> to hear how we all have a part to play in caring for creation: bit.ly/btswhatsmine 27	Maundy Thursday 28 "There is a new creation!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Look outside for signs of regeneration in the natural world today. We too can be made new.	Good Friday 29 "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" - Psalm 22:1 Jesus quotes a psalm of anguish and despair. What suffering and injustice from environmental crises do we need to call out today? hrw.org/topic/environment	Holy Saturday 30 "As a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up." - Isaiah 61:11 Welcome wildlife onto your congregation's grounds with the National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds program: nwf.org/sacredgrounds

31 Easter Sunday "When they came back from the tomb, they told these things to all the eleven and to all the others." - Luke 24:9

Reflect on this Lenten season. Prepare to share what you've learned with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's guidance for opening climate conversations: bit.ly/HayhoeInterview



Think back on all of the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with 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. As the writer in Isaiah calls us to be "Oaks of Righteousness," let us work to bring God's loving justice to all creation.