

# Earth Day 2024

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Stewardship of Creation





## Rapid Climate Change leads to more...

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Wildfires

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Floods

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Drought

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Violent storms

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Melting icecaps & sea level rise

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Coral reef loss

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Population displacement

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Loss of lives





# Damage to God's Creation From Fossil Fuel Use

Overuse and misuse of  
fossil fuels



Increased CO<sub>2</sub> in  
atmosphere



Climate Change



Affects poorest parts of the  
world most!

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-winged building with a brown roof. Overlaid on the roof are numerous black rectangular panels, representing solar panels, arranged in several clusters of different sizes. The building is surrounded by greenery and a paved area.

# St. Barnabas Solar Project

- Goals:

- Reduce Carbon Footprint
- Reduce cost of electricity
  - Save \$167K over 25 years

- Annual Energy Offsets

- 30.6 tons of CO2
- 55,400 miles not driven
- 15,300 pounds of coal not burned

- Grant application submitted to cover cost





# Deforestation

- Killing trees means:
  - Less Carbon capture
  - More climate change
- Clear cutting
  - Trees cover 31% of Earth's land
  - 1/3 less because of agriculture
  - Most loss was in last century
- Wildfires
  - 70 million acres burned in 10 yrs
  - Only 5.5% have been reforested



# Reforestation

- Government resources are not enough to keep up
- Past efforts were replanting fast-growing trees for lumber
- Developing industry to plant for carbon removal
- One method plants trees left to grow for 100 years
  - These capture greenhouse gasses as they mature
- Diocesan Carbon Offset Program
  - Plants trees in S. Philippines
  - You can be a part of this!







## Example Mitigation: Pachamama Alliance

- Partnership with Achuar people of Ecuadorian Amazon
  - Prevent deforestation
  - Preserve indigenous culture
- Culture of global north
  - Shift from consumption, exploitation and extraction
  - To culture that honors and sustains all life



# Methane: potent greenhouse gas

- The main ingredient in natural gas
- Traps 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide
- Sources include:
  - Naturally Occurring
  - Cattle (beef & dairy)
  - Agriculture
  - Fossil Fuel Energy Production
  - Landfills





# What We Can Do

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- Individually
  - Eat less meat and dairy
  - Conserve fossil fuels through household & transportation energy choices
  - Reduce & Compost food & yard waste
  - Write letters to leaders
- Systemically
  - Capture methane and use it to produce energy
  - Hold energy sector responsible for reducing emissions
  - Increase energy efficiency & conservation
  - Shift to renewable energy resources





# Oceans at Risk

- Ocean ecosystems facing collapse from:
  - Biodiversity loss
  - Climate change
  - Pollution
- Coastal floods
  - 570 coastal cities at risk
  - Sea level rise 2 ft by 2050
- Storm surges
  - 800 million people at risk by 2050
- Ocean warming
  - Reef and wildlife destruction





## Align with Ocean's natural assets

- Healthy reefs
  - Reduce wave energy by 97%
  - Helps marine wildlife
- Mangrove forests
  - Sequester 5x to 10x more carbon than land forests
- Restoring coastal ecosystems
  - Saves livelihoods & lives
  - Saves wildlife





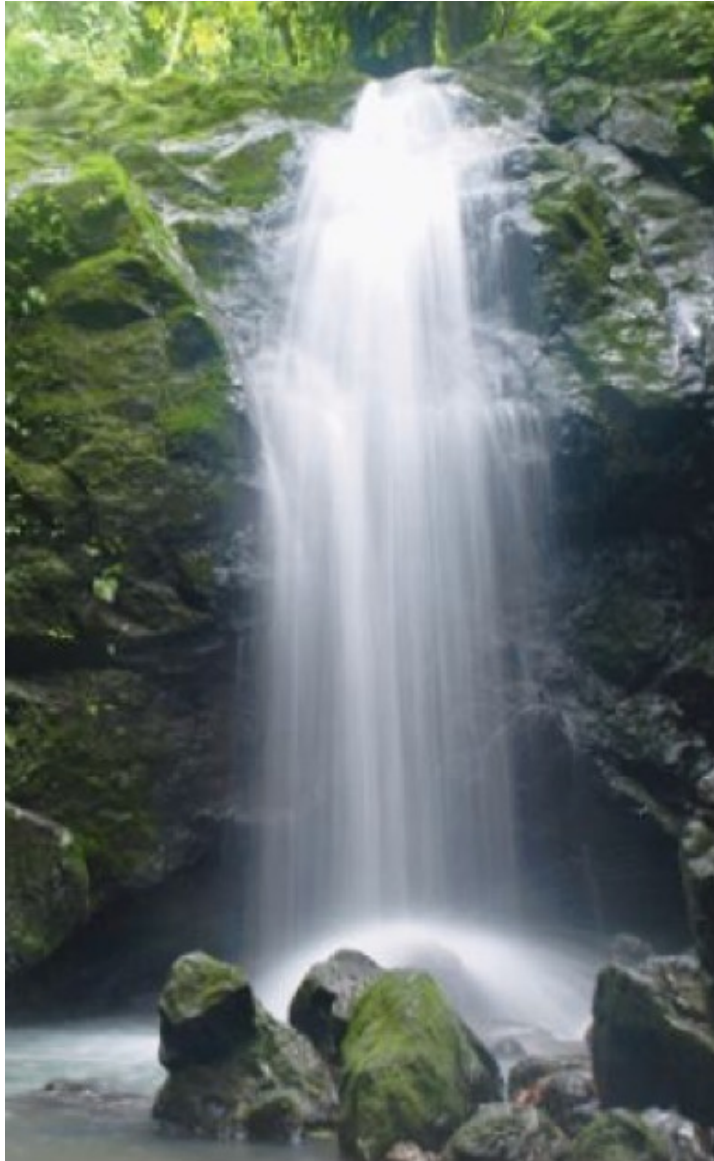
## Example Mitigation: MesoAmerican Reef Fund (2020-2025)

- Protect coral reefs in Mexico, Belize, Honduras and Guatemala
- Regional strategy for:
  - Mangrove management
  - Conservation
  - Restoration
  - Monitoring



Water – lifeblood  
of our planet  
providing:

- Health
- Food
- Manufacturing
- Energy
- Agriculture
- Transportation
- And More!



We take water  
for granted



- We waste it
- We pollute it
- We ignore its  
destructive power

# Ways to Conserve Water



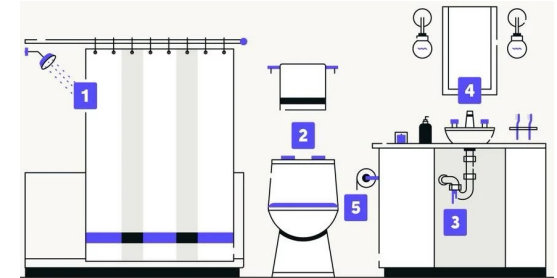
## Outdoors

1. Add mulch to lawn
2. Drought-resistant plants
3. Collect rainwater
4. Sweep driveways
5. Maintain irrigation system



## Kitchen

1. Full dishwasher loads
2. Reuse cooking water
3. Steam vegetables
4. Soak pots overnight
5. Compost



## Bathroom

1. Showers instead of baths
2. Only flush when needed
3. Check for leaks
4. Turn off sink as you brush
5. High-efficiency toilet





# The Nature Conservancy

The power to  
protect our natural  
world is in your  
hands.



# Resources – Suggested Books

## *Available in our library*

- *Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility*, Ed. Rebecca Solnit.
- *The Climate Book*, Ed. Greta Thunberg
- *The Ministry for the Future*, Kim Stanley Robinson
- *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*, Bill Gates
- *Making Love with the Land*, Joshua Whitehead
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Sacred Nature, Restoring Our Bond with the Natural World*, Karen Armstrong

# Resources - Online

- Episcopal Church Creation Care
- Diocese of Olympia:
  - Climate Justice Task Force
  - Bishop's Committee for Environment
  - St. Mark's Cathedral – “Climate Conversations”
- Diocese of North Carolina:
  - Disciple: Climate Change is a Biblical Issue
- Anglican Theological Review: The Episcopal Church and Climate Change: The First Twenty-Five Years
- Environmental and Energy Study Institute – forums & newsletters



# Plant Starts



Locally grown  
Organic  
Veggies and Herbs

Please take some home today!





# A Prayer for Earth Day

God of unchangeable power,  
when you fashioned the world  
the morning stars sang together  
and the host of heaven shouted for joy:  
Open our eyes to the wonders  
of creation  
and teach us to use all things for good,  
to the honor of your glorious Name.  
*Amen.*

*New Zealand Prayer Book*