

Tread Lightly for Lent

Daily reflection-action calendar

2024



Lent is a time for reflection as we spend time considering Christ's ministry, death and resurrection.

We slow down, take more time, embrace intentionality, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us.

Our hope is that this Lenten calendar will be the beginning of actions intended to create more mindful behaviors throughout the year.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program walks with people in adopting sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and Creation. As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. However, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate. To turn this tide, we must commit to treading lightly on God's Earth.

Monday

14 **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday

Read Isaiah 58:1-12. Consider what rebuilding and raising up you might be called to as you care for the Earth.

Thursday 15

Learn more about using sustainable palms in your worship. Learn more and order online: pcusa.org/ eco-palms.

16

Friday

Use the OGHS map at presbyterianmission.org/ oghsmap to find the OGHS partner closest to you and say a prayer for them.

17

Saturday

Set aside a special time for prayer today, on how to create intentionality throughout your care for all God's Creation.

Sunday

18 Download this guide from the Office at the U.N. at

presbyterianmission. org/resource/engagingour-world to connect environmental and human health around

the world.

Consider environmental injustice impacts using this poster at presbyterianmission.org/ wp-content/uploads/ PHP-Poster-Environmental-Racism.pdf.

19

26

Read and Reflect on Genesis 2:15-17.



Tuesday

20

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Consider how parts of Creation might be "the least of these."

21

Consider where you see Christ today. Share this with one person.

22

Pray: "God, show us how to honor and preserve your aift of Creation. Allow us to share as generously with each other as vou have shared the beauty of the

Farth with us. Amen."

23

Watch this short video about environmental racism and justice: youtu.be/ dREtXUij6 c.

24

Pray: "Today, remind us of those in this world who still have not been able to realize vour abundance because we have taken more than what we need. And let that rememberina drive us to chanae. Amen."

25

Read about the COP28 United Nations global climate talks at presbyterianmission. org/eco-journey/climatechange-resources/cop.



27

Pray: "Teach us to embody your good news for Creation. Today, change our hearts so we might seek to be builders and not desecrators. Amen."

28

Read and Reflect on Isaiah 65:17-25.

29

Research which items your city or town allows for curbside recycling and share this refresher with your church, family, friends and coworkers.

March

Learn where your food comes from. Calculate your food footprint at eatlowcarbon.



2

Visit pcusa.org/ccc to learn more about and consider taking PHP's Climate Care Challenge.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Read and Reflect on Genesis 1:29.	Pray: "Creator of the rivers and oceans, who washes us clean and refreshes us daily, help us to be like a cup of cold water to others in your name: refreshing, cleansing and relieving. Amen."	Pick up as many pieces of litter as you can and challenge a friend to do the same.	Unplug the chargers for your cellphone and laptop when you leave your home or office today to minimize the energy many electronics and appliances continue to draw even when they are off.	Take a walk to appreciate the Earth's natural beauty. Remember why preserving the Earth is crucial for the health of future generations.	For Easter baskets, buy fair trade chocolate, dried fruit, tea and coffee or small gifts made by women's cooperatives! Fair trade helps farmers and workers around the world: pcusa.org/fairtrade.	Download Considering Our Treasure from PHP and take one of the action steps listed in the study: tinyurl.com/y27szc3z.
Read and Reflect on Luke 12:48.	Pray: "In the rising and setting of the sun and the cycles of the seasons, in the patterns of the shining stars, may we remember the goodness of God. Amen."	Check your tire pressure. Low tire pressure means high energy/fuel consumption.	Storytelling is a powerful tool to inspire and engage people. Consider what your climate story is and download this canvas to help you strategize telling it: digitalstorytellers.com.au/the-story-canvas.	Consider a donation to the Presbyterian Tree Fund to offset your carbon use. Visit pcusa.org/trees.	Download ecoAmerica/Blessed Tomorrow's info sheets on various climate topics at ecoamerica.org/research.	Read and Reflect on Psalm 130. Consider our responsibility to be part of God's redemption in Creation.
Use the map at bit.ly/3FvwpJY to find the closest Earth Care Congregation to you and say a prayer for them.	Download a prayer at faithclimateactionweek.org so you can be prepared for the National Climate Prayer on Earth Day (April 22) at noon local time.	Explore and consider joining the One Home, One Future campaign: onehomeonefuture.org.	Celebrate the animal kingdom by watching fb.watch/oS-VmyvYM6 and consider planning an animal blessing.	Download the Holy Discontentment: Lifting Your Voice for Effective Advocacy resource from the Office of Public Witness to learn more about how to use your voice to create change: presbyterianmission. org/resource/holy- discontentment-advocacy- resource.	Download <i>Blessed Tomorrow's Let's Talk</i> resource to craft your own message to be able to speak with friends and family about reducing carbon use: presbyterianmission.org/ resource/lets-talk-faith-and-climate.	Participate in Earth Hour by switching off all electricity at 8:30 p.m. local time in solidarity with global efforts to secure nature and our home: earthhour.org.

Passion/Palm Sunday HOLY WEEK

As we think about Christ's journey this Holy Week, take space to acknowledge that while it is easy to be overwhelmed with climate injustice, we do not travel alone.

25

Challenge yourself to drink only water. It takes 600 cups of water to produce a single cup of coffee, and 125 cups of water to produce a cup of tea. 26

Give a gift of encouragement today and use recycled paper or make a card from reusable sources to give to someone who inspires you.

27

Sometimes in our abundance we neglect to consider what our actual needs are. Consider creating a budget today if you don't have one already. https://tinyurl.com/ymbwtmrt.

28

Maundy Thursday
Remind yourself of the
PC(USA)'s policy on
engaging with issues of
climate change by visiting
presbyterianmission.org/
lordsearthpolicy.



29

Speak to the powerful. Urge elected officials to support legislation making justice and Creation-care a priority. Visit votervoice.net/PCUSA/home to reach out to your representative.

30

Great Vigil of Easter

Read John 13:1–17, 31b–35. How can we love one another — and God's whole world — as Christ has loved us? Write down your commitment to show love to a part of Creation today.



31

Easter

Read Matthew 28:1—10. Give with joy to One Great Hour of Sharing.



For further learning and action

- Support the sustainable living work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program through gifts to the Hunger Fund H999999.
- Celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that strengthens Earth-care ministries, disaster response, and hunger and poverty alleviation: pcusa.org/oghs.
- Become a Climate Change Ambassador: bit.ly/3B769D1.
- Sign up for the Presbyterian Justice and Peace e-newsletter: share.hsforms.com/1xPXwVpbaRUiahH1NWcCOXwdf5ts.
- Lead your church in a study on the biblical and theological basis for eco-justice using resources from pcusa.org/environment.
- Find a more complete list of ideas for congregational Earth-care activities in the Earth Care Congregations guide: <u>pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations</u>.
- Become a member of the grassroots organization Presbyterians for Earth Care: <u>presbyearthcare.org</u>.
- Read our blog, Eco-Justice Journey: presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey.
- Download Earth Day Sunday materials: creationjustice.org.
- Stay up to date on public policy concerns through the Office of Public Witness: pcusa.org/washington.
- Lead a study group with the Lent 4.5 materials. Email php@pcusa.org for copies.

Please visit us at <u>pcusa.org/hunger</u> to learn more about ongoing opportunities for simple living, environmental justice, alleviating poverty and eliminating root causes of hunger.