



## The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

(Psalm 19:1 NRSV)

God is the author who has lovingly gifted us all of creation. Creation bears witness to the love of the creator and is part of God's plan to have an intimate relationship with human beings. Our calling is to recognize the glory and majesty of God in the earth and all people made in God's image and likeness. In the book of Romans, St. Paul notes that "Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made." **(1:20)**

**"for in him  
all things  
in heaven  
and on  
earth were  
created, things  
visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or  
dominions or rulers or  
powers—all things have  
been created through  
him and for him."**

(Colossians 1:16 NRSV)



Through nature, God teaches, communicates, and provides for the needs of humans. We are called by scripture and morality to partner with God in preserving, healing, and sustaining what God has granted us: our world, its people, and the beauty of creation. Augustine of Hippo, Christian theologian and philosopher, reflected on the glory of nature and the distracted nature of humanity:

**Is there anyone who, contemplating the works of God by which the entire universe is governed and ordered, is not amazed and overwhelmed by a sense of the miraculous? The power and strength of a single grain of seed is itself an amazing thing, inspiring awe in its contemplation. But humanity, preoccupied with its own petty agenda, has lost the capacity to contemplate the works of God by which it should daily render praise to God as creator.**

**(Commentary on St John's Gospel, 8, 1.)**

All creation was crafted by the hand of God, and the life of a disciple implies integrated care for creation and care for the vulnerable. Not only should we be stewarding God's gift of the earth and its bounty, but also manifesting God's love for God's children.



Christians respect the sanctity and dignity of human life as a component of care for God's creation. Jesus Christ offered himself so that all of creation could be renewed and reconciled in him. Christians are called to follow that model and place the welfare of others as a priority ahead of their own needs.

Humans are morally accountable to one another and ultimately to God. We are called to defend human dignity and preserve lives. Although greenhouse gases and resulting climate change are largely caused by industrialized nations, their burden and the impact of climate-related disasters are distributed unevenly, with low income, developing countries suffering the most. Jesus asks of His disciples to show special concern for the poor and the powerless. In Matthew's scene of the Great Judgment **(25: 31-46)** there is one test of whether a person will be saved or not—how the person has treated the hungry, thirsty, stranger, homeless, naked, sick, and imprisoned. Jesus identifies completely with them – and clearly identifies that how the most vulnerable in our world are treated, we also treat Christ. The reality: we will be judged by how those who suffer injustice and the poorest in our world are treated. The most vulnerable people are our deepest and greatest responsibility.

The challenge of how to respond to climate displacement is squarely in the realm of morality. There are serious moral costs to the inaction and lack of care paid to the increasing destructiveness of climate disasters and how it displaces people and communities. We cannot only grieve what has gone wrong, lamenting past choices. We also cannot mollify our conscience by merely proclaiming our shock at the consequences of climate change and climate disasters. Rather, we must declare our commitment to help our brethren impacted by climate disasters and build resilience in our cities and states to prevent others from facing consequences of further climate destruction in the future.

Now is the time for faith leaders to call for a conversion of heart. It is the role of faith leaders to provide hope and inspiration with respect to Christian care for creation. Followers of Christ require a restoration and reconciliation with creation that will elicit lasting change and healing. The faithful are called upon to name the truth around climate-related disasters, commit to the stewardship of creation, heal the relationship between humans and creation, and demand protection of the most vulnerable. In the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the chasm between God, creation and humanity was overcome, allowing for reconciliation and salvation. Work done to care for creation builds on the foundation of Christ's call to healing, justice, and conversion.

**For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. (Psalm 95:3-5 NRSV)**

**O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. (Psalm 104:24-25 NRSV)**