

# Caring for Creation is the Will of God

God longs for the well-being and health of the whole world, for all of creation is bound together and belongs to God, who has created and who preserves all things. Our concern for faithfulness and discipleship should also lead us to care for creation. We believe that we are called to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the earth.

Such a call invites the church to consider several questions:

## ***(1) To whom does creation belong?***

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he had founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Ps. 24:1-2 (See also Gen. 1:12, 18, 21, 25, 31; Gen. 9:12-13; Lev. 25:8-12; Ps. 19:1; Ps. 24:1-10; Job 39-41; Matt. 6:26-29; Rev. 21:1-4).

## ***(2) What is the rightful place of humanity in creation?***

God blessed them, and God said to them. Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. Gen. 1:28 (See also Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 8; Phil. 2:1-11).

## ***(3) What does the care of creation have to do with God's plan of salvation?***

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Col. 1:19-20 (See also 2 Cor. 5: 17-19; Rom. 8:18-25)

## ***(4) How is creation care an expression of justice and peacemaking and the love of my neighbour?***

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength... [and] you shall love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:30-31 (See also Exod. 23:1-12; Isa. 52:7; Luke 4:18-19).

## ***(5) What is the future of creation?***

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Rom. 8:19-21 (See also Rev. 21:1-2)

## ***(6) What is our future?***

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Ps. 46:1-2 (See also Matt. 6:26-29)

—Rudy Baergen, Chair, on behalf of Faith and Life Committee

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