

## Important Reminders

### While Caring for Creation

**Do not fear.** Over and over in Scripture, Jesus tells us not to fear. This is true in all things, and in our particular context, Jesus's words are a good reminder. Creation Care is nothing new and nothing to fear. It's already woven into the care God calls us to provide one another. This includes caring for everything among us: humans, animals, plants, oceans and all living things. The health of our earth is bound to the health of all. Chronic health problems, toxic living conditions and those affected by extreme weather events like floods, fires and droughts are consequences of our neglect, but we need not be afraid. There is hope.

**Be at peace.** Jesus calls us to face whatever comes as people filled with his light and peace. We are given agency and power to address the challenges before us and to restore creation anew.

**Pray.** Our Episcopal tradition holds that how we pray shapes what we believe. The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, founder of the *Season of Creation* initiative in The Episcopal Church, writes, "Our prayers for the earth, and all that dwells thereon, break through our silence and our fears and move our yearning for justice and restoration of the earth into action."

**Act.** This toolkit can help you and your community to act now. It provides simple, though not always easy, ways you and your community can use your unique gifts, locations, power and access to make a difference and protect "this fragile earth, our island home."

**Connect.** You are not alone. As a faith leader, you are a part of a vast network of people longing to work together to care for creation. *Creation Care & You* offers prayer and action ideas that range from private devotions and small acts to full community worship and engagement.

**Walk in love.** The global conversation can be overwhelming. But small and large shifts in local communities build lasting change and give us hope. Throughout this guide, you will learn more about how your parish can be involved in Episcopal Relief & Development's investments in communities around the world, strengthening their resources and resilience in response to climate change.

**Thank You.** We are grateful to you for your willingness to work together, and through caring for creation, to seek peace, justice and hope in the world.

*You and I are fortunate that offering love and kindness is at the heart of our work at Episcopal Relief & Development every day.*

*Sometimes, that love and kindness looks like a malaria net. Sometimes, it looks like shelter during a humanitarian crisis. Sometimes, it looks like access to clean water. It looks like many different things.*

*Thank you for offering the kind of love and kindness that gladdens the hearts of the millions worldwide who travel with us.*

*– Rob Radtke, President & CEO, Episcopal Relief & Development*