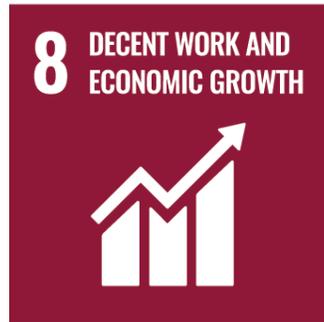


# Resurrection and Regeneration Easter to Earth Day 2021



Reflections on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals  
and the United Church of Christ's 3 Great Loves  
Erin McConahey

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Dear friends,

I am an engineer who attends a UCC church. Considering the multiple recent crises, I've been reflecting on how God calls me in my secular work to help the Kin-dom of God come to fruition. Maybe you have too.

The United Church of Christ's historic crest proclaims that Christ's sovereignty over all the earth should lead to the day when we all might be one. Now we see that we can help bring forth this day of radical inclusion by acting to create a just world for all, trusting that God is still speaking to us through Word, wisdom and connection with the whole family of God.

But how might we pursue faithfulness to God's Dream versus how we are allowed to speak and act in our secular work? I find help and hope in the remarkable global ethic embodied in the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are surprisingly well-aligned with Biblical tradition, progressive Christian belief, and the UCC's 3 Great Loves.

In these pages, you will find for each day a short summary of a single SDG, a couple relevant readings from the Bible, a probing question, a reflection, and a prayer. I will unabashedly state that these are designed to be a catalyst. They are meant to cause reaction and realization. I pray that they light a fire under you and within you that burns bright for 3 Great Loves: love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation.

Yours Faithfully,  
Erin McConahey

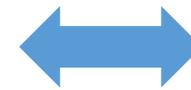
### Background on the UN SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a global commitment to coordinated actions of improvement around "the 5 P's:" poverty, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. Developed in consultation with government, non-governmental, faith-based, and civil society organizations, it was adopted by 193 countries as the augmented replacement of the expiring agreements related to the eight Millennium Goals. Nations report their progress against 169 different targets categorized under the 17 goals. It is a social compact promoting a just worldwide transition of adapting to climate change, to be run concurrently with the fight to stop it under the Paris Agreement signed the very same year.

### Background on the 3 Great Loves

Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt writes in his book Cathedral on Fire, that the campaign came out of his wife's criticism about his message of climate doom and gloom. It made him realized that every climate activist he knew "was motivated by what I came to call the three great loves."

He notes further that we have a special gift:  
"For Christians, love is our power source. It is our God-source. It is what sparks our soul and animates us to action. . . .  
By speaking about this love, we name the spiritual heart of the movement to address climate change."





## Sunday 4/4/2021

Earthrise, photograph by Astronaut William Anders during the Apollo 8 mission

[Isaiah 6:8-12](#)  
[John 20:24-29](#)

*In the face of the ecological crisis, what more do you need to hear, see or touch?*

On this night of Easter 2021, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and look forward to a new beginning of our own. But in the midst of our hope, we are deathly afraid that we will “go back to normal.” This would be our greatest shame in the face of the pandemic, in the shadow of the economic crash, in the fire of racial injustice, in the warming of our environment, and in our response to God calling us to our true vocation as the essential care-givers of the earth and all its inhabitants.

Isaiah responds to his call, but the message is grim. If the people dull their minds, shut their eyes, and refuse to listen, we will not comprehend that we must turn and start the healing. And if we do not, the cities will lie waste, the people gone, and the land stripped bare.

Are we like Thomas, refusing to believe until we have even more tangible evidence of the wounds that pain God? For surely we must know that God was not in the wildfires or the floods or the winds of hurricanes or in the melting. This moment is the still small voice that asks, “What are you doing here?”

For love of God, I hope we have a good answer . . . .

*Creator God, praise to You forevermore.  
We confess our extraction & distraction.  
Forgive us & guide us, as we look to align ourselves with Your Dream of how to live well with the earth & all that are Yours.*



## Monday 4/5/2021

[Deuteronomy 15:7-11](#)  
[Luke 4:16-22](#)



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

*What do the poor closest to you say that they need?*

- Extreme poverty is living on less than \$1.90 per day.
- People in extreme poverty: 689 million people in 2017
- The COVID 19 pandemic has been estimated as pushing another 88-115 million back into extreme poverty. *(statistics above: World Bank)*
- Children in extreme poverty: 356 million people *(UNICEF)*

SDG 1 targets the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030, as well as a goal to cut all poverty in half by that same year.

God calls us to love of neighbor in practical form by encouraging us to give with an open heart to meet the need. Because half of the world's poor are children, this is simultaneously a call to love of children. In the Bible, God shows moral judgment not against the poor, but only against those who do not help them.

Jesus himself proclaims that good news for the poor comes with the institution of the Kin-dom of God. Realizing the Kin-dom means listening to the wisdom of our brothers and sisters closest to the need, and then mobilizing resources from national to personal to lighten the burden of stress, fear, and insecurity that comes with poverty.

*Source of all Abundance, help us to share what you have given to us individually, but also give us the courage to stand for distributive justice in policy that better cares for your entire family.*





**Tuesday 4/6/2021**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

[Exodus 16: 9-12](#)  
[James 2:14-17](#)

*Where do you see food going to waste?*

In October 2020, Feeding America estimated that 50 million people (one in six Americans) were suffering from food insecurity, 17 million of which were children. Food banks were reporting that contributors had become clients. Farmers were plowing their yields back into the fields while people went hungry. How can it be love of Creation that the abundance of the Maker ever goes to waste?

SDG 2 targets the end of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, along with the development of sustainable and resilient production agriculture.

Our story from Exodus reminds us that God was concerned with the hunger of people at least since the time of the Israelites. Meat in the evening, and bread (manna) in the morning everyday was provided from heaven to care for them. Years later, Jesus himself taught people to pray to God asking, "Give us this day our daily bread." But now the social systems we've created work against the abundance of God's earth being enough to feed all. James reminds us that there is no good in faith without a practical love of neighbor (and by extension their children) that supplies their bodily needs.

*Maker of Creation, we come to you hungry to serve and to heed the call to go back to basics. Beyond a focus on food-in-the-belly today, put a fire in our bellies to fight for food security for all.*



**Wednesday 4/7/2021**



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

[Exodus 23:25-26](#)  
[Mark 2:1-12](#)

*Where and why are there health disparities near where you live?*

There is perhaps no year in recollected memory such as this, in which the comfortable class has had to come face to face with their health and mortality due to uncontrollable disease. COVID-19 has destroyed bodies, the world economy, social support systems, trust, and hope. It has reminded each one of us of our precarious nature as the most vulnerable of all God's creatures, and thus most dependent on a wrap-around environment of care.

SDG 3 targets severe reduction in maternal and childhood deaths, deaths from traffic accidents and pollution, and the incidences of epidemics and highly communicable diseases. This paired with a target for universal health care (including reproductive health and mental health, and improvements in the treatment of substance abuse).

God's first promise to the liberated Israelites is a reduction of disease and death if they can live rightly under God's guidance. The health of the community underpins the health of each member. The faith of friends willing to do every crazy thing to get you the healing you need is the model of love-of-neighbor communal salvation that will save us all.

*Healer of all, we urgently need your gracious presence during this trying time. Help us move towards healing in the broadest sense, to become your circle of care that supports well-being.*





Thursday 4/8/2021

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

[Deuteronomy 6:3-7](#)

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

*Who are the learners that you can help grow into their God-given potential?*

- According to UNESCO, women account for two thirds of the 750 million adults without basic literacy skills.
- Project Drawdown identified the education of women as #6 on the top 100 actions to take to combat climate change.
- The World Economic Forum reports that the educational achievement gap between White and Black students in the US is equivalent to two years of school, as determined by standardized tests.

SDG 4 focuses on achieving worldwide gender equity in access to learning at all levels, free primary and secondary education, and increases in literacy, numeracy, sustainability and job skills by 2030.

The Torah remind us that the giving of one's whole self in love to God is something that must be taught in love of children, such that in loving God, they learn such love of creation that "things may go well . . . in a land flowing with milk and honey." And Jesus praises Mary for her seeking, for her choice, and for her focus on the one thing that will not be taken from her: her listening for the voice of God and her learning from the source of Truth.

*O Depth of Truth, reveal yourself to us today so that we may love you even more. Guide our advocacy for teachers everywhere as they lay the foundation of hope & opportunity for all your children.*



Friday 4/9/2021



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

[Genesis 1:27; 2:15-22](#)

[John 8:1-11](#)

*When was the last time you thanked the influential women in your life?*

- World Bank leads a coalition, including Habitat for Humanity, to assert property ownership rights for women in the half of the world's countries where social impediments prevent the use of their legal right.
- World Health Organization and UN Women note that 35% of women have experienced domestic violence or sexual violence by a non-partner.
- Oxfam calculates that the unpaid care work of women over 15 is more than \$10.8 trillion, or over 3 times the size of the world's tech industry.

SDG 5 targets the end of gender discrimination, the elimination of violence against women and girls, the achievement of equal economic and political rights, the recognition of the value of unpaid care and domestic work, and adoption of policies to empower women and girls.

The Genesis accounts show that man and woman were both created in the image of God, and that woman was created to complete humanity in the last of all of divine creative activity before God was able to rest. In John, Jesus rejects a double standard, extends grace and preserves dignity of the least powerful, most abused of the moment. Love of 50% of our neighbors demands equal protection in both law and behavior.

*Mothering God, we call to you asking for pro-active justice for our sisters around the world. Help us to speak out on their value, their gifts, and their power, and to not diminish the pain they face.*





**Saturday 4/10/2021**

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

[Psalms 104:10-17](#)

[John 4:5-15, 27-30](#)

*What is your city's view on water as a common good and a human right?*

- World Health Organization reports that 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, 4.2 billion lack safely managed sanitation, and 3 billion lack basic hand-washing facilities.
- World Economic Forum notes that water was a major factor in conflict in 45 countries during 2019.
- CDC reports that approximately 2200 children under the age of 5 die each day from diarrhea, the majority in developing countries.

SDG 6 targets universal equitable access to water and sanitation, improved water quality and water conservation, and international protection of watersheds by 2030.

Our Biblical forebearers were a people who intimately knew the importance of water for basic survival. Today's Psalm selection praises God who has lavishly poured water out over all the land to support life for all earth's creatures. In John, the Samaritan woman at the well is incredulous when Jesus, sans bucket, offers living water. When she understands it to be eternal life, she shares the good news out of love of neighbor. How shall we act out of the 3 Great Loves regarding water?

*Living Water, let us not ever take you or H2O for granted. In this warming planet, help us to discern an ethic of water-righteous living and advocacy that builds up mutual benefit & health.*



**Sunday 4/11/2021**



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

[Deuteronomy 4:19-20](#)

[Matthew 5:43-48](#)

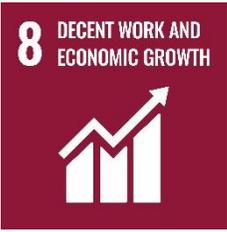
*Who near you has to decide between paying the utility bill and eating?*

- Solar panel coverage of 0.6% of U.S. land area could make clean electricity for the entire nation (*National Renewable Energy Laboratory*)
  - Energy analysis company Woods Mackenzie estimates that it would cost \$4.5 trillion to convert the US to renewable energy. (*as compared to Brown University's calculation of \$6.4 trillion spent on major U.S. wars since 2001*).
  - Bloomberg New Energy Finance reports that developing countries built more renewable energy than fossil-fuel based power the last two years
- SDG 7 prioritizes deep energy efficiency coupled with affordable and reliable energy made up of high amounts of renewable energy by 2030.

The Bible clearly states that the sun is a resource available for the benefit of every person, and I would argue, for every living thing on earth. We are dependent on the sun's gravitational pull for planetary habitability, its light for the photosynthesis at the base of the food chain, its heat to support the water cycle, and its multi-wavelength energy for our health. For years we have burned "ancient sun" stored in dead organic matter. For love of creation, why not use technology to go straight to the source of all energy on earth?

*Power greater than all powers, we come humbly confessing our participation in a fossil-fuel economy. Convert our hearts that we might convert our electrical grid to rely on the light of Your glory.*





**Monday 4/12/2021**

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

[Ecclesiastes 5:18-20](#)  
[Romans 12:3-8](#)

*What brings you joy and pride from all the places you invest your work?*

- “Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God.” *(Laudato Si’, Pope Francis)*
- “We were created with a vocation to work. The goal should not be that technological progress increasingly replace human work, for this would be detrimental to humanity.” *(Laudato Si’, Pope Francis)*

SDG 8 focuses on economic development to support full, productive employment in decent work for everyone, with equal work for equal pay, and workforce development for youth around the world.

Genesis 2:15 shows that humans have a special job, namely to serve and work with the earth to support its productiveness. In turn, we directly benefit as investors and dependents from its offerings. The writer of Ecclesiastes appreciates the deep satisfaction that comes from a good day’s work. And that itinerant preacher with a tent-making side gig, Paul? For instilling love of neighbor, he lifts up the diversity of the gifts that inspire rich creativity in our vocations.

*Hi Boss, it feels like it’s all hard work without much progress, like something’s just plain broken down. Grant us the insight to fix our systems of exchange to bring back dignity & fair, livable wages.*



**Tuesday 4/13/2021**



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

[Isaiah 43:18-21](#)  
[Luke 6:46-49](#)

*In your town, where is social vulnerability high and what disaster risks do you all face?*

“Urban Resilience: The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience” *(Resilient Cities Network)*

“Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” *(Our Common Home, The Brundtland Report, 1987)*

SDG 9 addresses development and retrofit to create sustainable infrastructure and industry, to improve its resilience, increase its employment, and expand affordable access to information technology.

Isaiah’s vision of restoration reminds us that God’s about to do a new thing in roads, in water, in creation, in us. God’s intention has always been that we are co-creators in the building up. But we are warned to dig deeply and lay the foundation on the rock, says Jesus the Tektōn (artisan), lest the house fall during a flood. For love of neighbor and love of children, we have learned, the built environment we inhabit must stay standing for security, stability, and solidarity.

*Master Craftsman of the Universe, we commit to you that we will build back better and to leave no one behind. Help us accept the reality of circumstance as only the start, inspire our innovation.*





Wednesday 4/14/2021

Reduce inequality within and among countries

[Exodus 22:21-25](#)  
[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

*What causes the pockets of inequality in your community?*

- "Inequality is the root of social ills." (*Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis*)
- "It is almost universally true that violence has been necessary to ensure the redistribution of wealth at any point in time," such as "mass mobilization or state warfare, transformative revolution, state collapse and plague." (*Professor Walter Scheidel, Stanford University, 2017*)
- "The richest 1% have more than twice as much wealth as 6.9 billion people." (*Oxfam, 2020*)

SDG 10 emphasizes sustained income growth for the lowest 40% of the population, inclusion across all groups in all sectors of common life, elimination of systemic discrimination, equal opportunity as measured by outcome, and fairly managed processes for migrants.

In Exodus, God sides with the poor, with consequences spelled out in the sheep/goat parable of Matthew 25:31-46: nations inherit the kingdom they have created. Jesus preaches an alternate Kin-dom, where the last shall be first, all will be fed, and everyone gets what they need, sufficient for the day. For the sake of 3 Great Loves, a peaceful transition to God's Economy (*oikonomia*) is desperately needed.

*Earth-owner and Manager of the House, we your servants see the despair and social disruption of our economic practices. We act and pray Thy Kin-dom come, Thy will be done on earth (period)*



Thursday 4/15/2021



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

[Jeremiah 29:5-7](#)  
[Revelation 21:1-4](#)

*Where in this place, where you have set down roots, is the City of God revealed?*

- 1.6 billion people live in inadequate living conditions. (*UN-Habitat*)
- 568,000 people are homeless in the U.S. (*HUD Annual Report 2019*)
- Households in low-income areas typically own fewer vehicles, have longer commutes, and have higher transportation costs. (*US DOT*)
- Young people who live in poor or mostly minority neighborhoods are 50 percent less likely to have a recreation and park facility near their homes. (*National Recreation and Park Association*)

SDG 11 focuses on safe and affordable housing, green spaces, and transport, inclusive planning practices, and reduced environmental impact and vulnerability to disaster by 2030.

Jeremiah encourages us, we who are temporarily exiled from Edenic beauty, to no longer pine for what is lost. We are to make each place our home for love of children and to concern ourselves with the city's welfare in love of neighbor. Gifted with the insight from Revelation that the true and most perfect state of the cosmos is that God dwells among us humans here on this very earth. For now, we claim this here people as our people, and we work in this here city to make it livable for all.

*Master Planner, we wait in trust to see Your vision unfold in the here and now, where the Kin-dom of God is indeed at hand. Give us the courage to be present in the fight for our communities.*





Friday 4/16/2021

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

[Exodus 16:11-21](#)  
[Matthew 6:19-21](#)

*Where does your town's waste in all its forms come from, and where does it go?*

- The U.S. wastes 133 billion pounds/year, or 30-40% of supply. (USDA) [Americans eat about 4 pounds of food per day, so this translates into enough food for 91 million people. Per SDG2, 50 million people in the U.S. are hungry.]
- For the 9 million people who live within 3km (2mi) of U.S. hazardous waste facilities, people of color are represented at double the rate found in communities elsewhere. (UCC Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty)
- "In the end, a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms." (Laudato Si', Pope Francis)

SDG 12 stresses sustainable use of natural resources, cutting food waste in half, reducing waste generation, and putting in place environmentally sound handling of chemicals and pollutants by 2030.

The Israelites in the desert learn quickly that God provides sufficient for the day. Grasping for excess of any gift from God is loss of faith in grace. Jesus teaches that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Sustainable consumption means to leave available for love of creation, children and neighbors. God's abundance is not a zero sum game, but neither is it "the one with the most toys wins."

*Ultimate Giver and Ultimate Gift, we confess our urge to covet and acquire as the way we fill the void left when we are far from you. Create in us a clean heart, as surely, we need to clean up our act.*



Saturday 4/17/2021



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

[Isaiah 24:4-6, 10-13a](#)  
[Romans 8:18-25](#)

*What is building up resilience and hope in you and your community?*

- "I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is." (Greta Thunberg)
- "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." (Native American Proverb)
- "Climate change is the single biggest thing that humans have ever done on this planet. The one thing that needs to be bigger is our movement to stop it." (Bill McKibben)

SDG13 focuses on climate action, building resilience and adaptive capacity, and spreading knowledge about climate change and mitigation.

The prophet Isaiah, speaking for God, links people's bad behaviors with the degradation of the earth and the devastation of civilization. The Letter to the Romans warns that "creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God." We remain the greatest influencers of life on the planet because we people are its partners in the creative productivity of God. Only if we repair our relationship with creation & neighbor do we have a chance to turn things around.

*Holy Spirit, Giver of Life. Breathe into us a feeling of connectedness and burn into our souls the insights that will compel us to fast action. It's real . . . . We fear . . . . We're here . . . . Be near . . . .*





**Sunday 4/18/2021**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

[Ezekiel 47:6-12](#)  
[John 21:4-14](#)

*How do you feel when you recall your favorite waterscape?*

- Three billion people rely on wild-caught and farmed seafood as their primary source of protein. *(World Wildlife Fund)*
- In 15 years, 19% of the world's mangroves were lost. If the rest were lost, 18 million more people would be flooded each year. *(World Bank)*
- Study shows that by mixing in 1% tropical red seaweed to feed, cow flatulence reduces by 98%, dropping methane emissions as well. *(NPR)*
- Scientists estimate that 80% of the ocean is unexplored. *(NOAA)*

SDG 14 aims to reduce marine pollution, protect ecosystems, preserve 10% of marine environments and coastal land, regulate harvesting, combat acidification, and increase fishery-based outputs.

Ezekiel imagines the river that flows from God's temple. It brings life to the sea and to trees along the banks. And people stand fishing. In John, we see Jesus back at the Sea of Galilee, calling out to his friends to cast the net to the other side after striking out all morning. The catch was so great, it had to be counted (153 fish!) as blessings. For love of creation, we must protect the life that teems, yet unseen beneath the water's surface, as the protein of our neighbor's diet depends on it.

*Ringleader of Fishers, call us too, to join the ones that thrive on the soggy-slippery-squirmy parts of life. Count us in for the long haul in protecting coast, kelp, and creature.*



**Monday 4/19/2021**



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

[Genesis 1:29-30](#)  
[Matthew 6:26-34](#)

*What smells, sights, and sounds linger from your last encounter with nature?*

- Roughly 2 billion people (26.7% of the world population) derive their livelihoods from agriculture. *(UN FAO)*
- Deforestation has robbed the world of roughly 420 million hectares since 1990, mainly in Africa and South America. *(UN FAO)*
- "Around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history." *(Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service)*

SDG 15 concentrates on restoring biodiverse ecosystems, managing forests sustainably, fighting desertification, and reducing extinction risk and trafficking for protected species.

We are earthlings here in creation, no different in dependency than the plants and animals. Jesus tells us to stop worrying about the vanities of today and just focus on right living in Kin-dom, where there is enough for food and clothes in the green plants promised in Eden. Put aside the paralysis of fretting over a lost future, we're told. Instead concentrate our "good trouble" today on making a better tomorrow.

*Mystery of Grace— we bow in gratitude and praise. You grant us an open-ended future. Our hand is on the plow; our alignment straight home; our vision towards you, never ever looking back.*





Tuesday 4/20/2021

Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

[Jeremiah 22:1-5](#)  
[1 Thessalonians 5:12-22](#)

*Where is peace and justice lacking in your community?*

- “We’re going to be the kids you read about in textbooks. Not because we’re going to be another statistic about mass shooting in America . . . we are going to be the last mass shooting.” *(Emma Gonzalez)*
- “I can’t breathe” *(George Floyd)*
- “I have never seen a hopeful person join a gang.” *(Greg Boyle)*
- “The opposite of poverty is not wealth. In too many places, the opposite of poverty is justice.” *(Bryan Stevenson)*

SDG 16 advocates for reduced violence and violent death, the end of abuse and trafficking of children, reduced illegal goods movement and corruption, improvement in access to information, participatory government, and equal justice under the law.

Justice and righteousness, no wrong or violence, no shedding of innocent blood: this exhortation of Jeremiah should shake up anyone wanting the kingdom to be returned to its true king. “Be at peace among yourselves,” the Epistle advises, “always seek to do good to one another and to all.” For love of children and for love of neighbor, we rise to our call and to our feet to join the long march towards justice.

*Judge of the Nations, what we left neglected grew into our fear, and then we abdicated as its cause & from its fix. Aid us in fighting for reforms that truly recognize the dignity of each one.*



Wednesday 4/21/2021



Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

[John 15:4-5](#)  
[Hebrews 10:23-25](#)

*Where is there room for mutually beneficial teaming for common cause?*

SDG 17 acknowledges the need for creating means of mobilizing sharing of financial, technical, and knowledge resources for the least developed nations to build up capacity, reduce crushing debt, and normalize international aid relationships to improve autonomy.

We are all connected to God through Jesus Christ: we bear our fruit only when connected to the source of “Live!” We must always recall that there are others growing out of that root imperative, off in a different direction, yes, but producing the same fruit. To these, the Epistle suggests “let us consider how to provoke one another in love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” It is the day of our communal salvation, as the day of our ecological reckoning has already come.

My friends, do you see now that you aren’t alone? There’s a secular ethic that mirrors God’s Dream. But it takes us all working together in harmony with the earth and with each other to leave it better for those who follow. Blessings on you in your work for the good and for our God.

*God of the Interconnections, strengthen our bonds, build our affinity, increase our activity, multiply our energy, expand our presence, and blow up our apathy. And let your very Breath invigorate us again.*



# Earth Day 2021

## Psalm 148

Hallelujah!

Praise GOD from heaven,  
praise him from the mountaintops;  
Praise him, all you his angels,  
praise him, all you his warriors,  
Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, you morning stars;  
Praise him, high heaven,  
praise him, heavenly rain clouds;  
Praise, oh let them praise the name of GOD—  
he spoke the word, and there they were!  
He set them in place  
from all time to eternity;  
He gave his orders,  
and that's it!

Praise GOD from earth,  
you sea dragons, you fathomless ocean deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and ice,  
hurricanes obeying his orders;  
Mountains and all hills,  
apple orchards and cedar forests;  
Wild beasts and herds of cattle,  
snakes, and birds in flight;  
Earth's kings and all races,  
leaders and important people,  
Robust men and women in their prime,  
and yes, graybeards and little children.  
Let them praise the name of GOD—  
it's the only Name worth praising.  
His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky;  
he's built a monument—his very own people!  
Praise from all who love GOD!  
Israel's children, intimate friends of GOD.  
Hallelujah!