

Is God Green?



1. There are a number of very realistic, easy-to-do practices that each of us could carry out in order to care for our world. Working with a small group, brainstorm as many of these practices as possible. Then re-evaluate the list in order to choose five things the members of your group would be willing to put into practice for the next 30 days. If you need help coming up with ideas for your list, then do an Internet search for “50 ways to help save the earth/planet/environment.” For a delightfully Presbyterian perspective on how to encourage your whole congregation to practice eco-spirituality together, consider purchasing Rebecca Barnes-Davies newest book from Westminster/John Knox press: *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference* (to order go to Cokesbury: www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=9780664233709)
2. In “Space and Time for Breathing,” Sam Hamilton-Poore invites us to make time within our week to “break free of the things that, unchecked, may become addictions that diminish our life together and the life of this planet A breathing space for remembering who we really are, whose we really are, and how we are connected to everything else in which there is the breath of life.” What habits form a regular part of your daily routine? Name one thing that gently nags at the back of your mind as needing a change (or perhaps it screams for attention). What might you do to alter your routine in order to make space and time for breathing?
3. There are two articles that make an explicit connection between caring for the earth and observing a holy day, or Sabbath. (See “It Kinda Makes Me Wonder,” and “Space and Time for Breathing.”) What connections do you make between these two practices? How might the dual practice of caring for the earth and keeping Sabbath help combat our propensity to overwork and overconsumption?
4. In Lynne Smith’s article about Eco-spirituality in the Benediction tradition she quotes Abbott John Klassen, who writes:

The earth can also teach us about our lives. All too often we think of other humans as our primary teachers. But earth can teach us about . . . loss and grief, about death and transformation.

What lessons have you learned from the earth?