



ADULT  
EDUCATION  
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# LENT

## IN OUR BACKYARD

WEEK 5: MAR. 30–  
APR. 5

### Rethinking Transport

#### READINGS

Psalms 8:3–9

#### PRAYER

Gracious and Merciful God,  
Help us to be open to just transitions  
so that the web of life may be  
mended through individual actions  
that limit overall carbon emissions.

We pray that love and wisdom might  
inspire our personal actions so that  
we may, with integrity, look into the  
eyes of our brothers and sisters, and  
of all beings and truthfully say, we are  
doing our part to care for them and  
the future. May love transform us and  
our world with new steps toward life.  
Amen.<sup>[i]</sup>

#### REFLECTION

For your next trip by plane, consider  
buying carbon offsets for the miles  
that you travel. Organizations such as  
Cool Effect or Native Energy which  
allow you to easily calculate and buy  
carbon offsets for air travel.

Or

Envision whether your next spring  
break or other vacation might be a  
destination where travelers are part of  
the solution:

- [52 Places for a Change World](#)
- [Responsible Travel](#)

#### CHALLENGE

Check the pressure in your tires; then  
leave the car at home, and walk or bike  
one place you drove to last Tuesday.

#### FACTS

Fuel consumption rises 2.5% for every  
10 lbs/sq inch that a tire  
is underinflated.

Cars and trucks account for 25% of  
carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>[ii]</sup>

#### LEARNING

[Calculate your personal carbon  
footprint.](#)

#### POETRY

##### Shared Journeys

God who made us, teach us to share—  
The space on the train, the chat on the bus—  
And make friends of strangers.

God beside us, teach us to share  
The joy of the car, to share the load,  
Never travel alone.

God all-holy, teach me to share  
My life with you.  
To let go control of the driving wheel  
Into your Wisdom.<sup>[iii]</sup>  
—Chris Polhill



<sup>[i]</sup> Excerpt from Interfaith Prayer for National Climate Prayer.  
<https://www.faihtclimateactionweek.org/prayers-and-climate-blessings/>

<sup>[ii]</sup> Lent 2020 *Care of Creation*, Diocese of Worcester, MA.

<sup>[iii]</sup> Iona Community devotional, taken from *A Heart for Creation* by Chris Polhill.