

# LENT

IN OUR BACKYARD

WEEK 6: APR. 5-13

## Choosing Sustainability



ADULT  
EDUCATION  
kuc.org

### READING

Matthew 6:19-21

### POETRY

It's your earth.  
Will you neglect it,  
Or nurture it?  
Will you tend it,  
Or squander it away?  
The choice is yours,  
But if you're going  
To make a stand,  
You'd better start today.  
- Kelly Roper<sup>[i]</sup>



### REFLECTION

Reflect on where my treasure and my heart are. What impact do my treasures have on the rest of God's creation?

### CHALLENGE

Buy only fair-trade chocolate and treats for Easter baskets.

### PRAYER

God of Enough,  
Let us remember those in this world who still have not been able to realize your abundance because we have taken more than we need.  
And may our remembering drive us to action. Amen. <sup>[ii]</sup>

### LEARNING

Research your five most frequent recurring purchases. Then compare to ethical purchasing practices.  
Or  
Learn where your own food comes from.

### FACT

With less than 5% of the world's population, our nation consumes 30% of the world's resources. <sup>[iii]</sup>

### BONUS DAY

#### Creation Care prayers from other faith traditions:

**Jewish:** It is good to acclaim Adonai, To sing your praise, exalted God, To affirm Your love each morning, And Your faithfulness each night, To the music of the lute And the melody of the harp. Your works, Adonai, make me glad; I sing with joy of Your creation. How vast Your works, Adonai! Your designs are beyond our grasp. The thoughtless cannot comprehend; The foolish cannot fathom this: The wicked may flourish, springing up like grass, but their doom is sealed, for You are supreme forever.

**Muslim:** Through the silence of nature, I attain Thy divine peace. Oh sublime nature, in thy stillness let my heart rest. Thou art patiently awaiting the moment to manifest through the silence of sublime nature. Oh nature sublime, speak to me through silence, for I am waiting in silence like you the call of God. Oh nature sublime, through thy silence I hear Thy cry. My heart is tuned to the quietness, that the stillness of nature inspires.

**Buddhist:** We gently caress you, the Earth, our planet, and our home. Our vision has brought us closer to you, making us aware of the harm we have done to the life-network upon which we ourselves depend. We are reminded that we have poisoned your waters, your lands, your air. We have filled you with the bones of our dead from war and greed. Your pain is our pain. Touching you gently, we pray that we may become peace-bringers and life-bringers so that our home in its journey around the Sun does not become a sterile and lonely place. May this prayer and its power last forever.

<sup>[i]</sup> [https://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Earth\\_Day\\_Poems](https://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Earth_Day_Poems).

<sup>[ii]</sup> Tread Lightly for Lent 2022, Presbyterian Church, USA.

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