



ADULT
EDUCATION
kuc.org

LENT

IN OUR BACKYARD

WEEK 4: MAR. 23-29

Transforming Energy

READINGS

Nehemiah 9:6
Job 37:14-18
Genesis 9:12-13

POETRY

Grace of the Sun

End the Oil Age
Salvage Paradise
Now we must live in
The Grace of the Sun.

- Robert Montgomery,
Scottish poet and creator of a "light poem" installed at COP26 using 1,000 solar powered, reusable lamps.^[i]

REFLECTION

Reflect on our responsibility to future generations regarding alternative energy sources (see Gen 9:12-13 for God's covenant to protect creation.)

PRAYER

God of All,
The sun, the wind, the waves, and all of earth are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life. Help us to appreciate these gifts and find ways to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.
Amen.^[ii]

CHALLENGE

Celebrate "Earth Hour" on 3/26 from 8:30-9:30 p.m. by turning all lights off.

FACTS

Residential energy use produces 20% of national greenhouse gas emissions. Of that, 69% of residential emissions are the result of electricity use.^[iii]

75% of the energy used to power household electronics is consumed when they are switched off. Using "smart power strips" eliminates phantom loads by shutting off the power to electronics when they are not in use.^[iv]

LEARNING

What is the next best thing to installing solar panels on your house? It's a new program called "community solar" which allows you to replace electricity generated by fossil fuels with electricity created by solar farms in Illinois.

Last year, Kenilworth Union Church became one of the first houses of worship on the North Shore to participate in a community solar program. Already, the church is offsetting about 50,000 kWh (kilowatt hours) of electric power each year with energy generated from the sun.
<https://kuc.org/kenilworth-union-church-goes-solar/>

Members of our church may also connect their own homes to a local community solar program. It's fairly easy to do and Green Team co-chair King would be glad to walk you through how it's done. Just call him at (847) 867-0208.

Interested in installing solar panels on your home? King and his wife Hope installed solar panels on their own home in 2020 and have been very pleased with the economic and environmental savings. If you have an interest in solar panels for your home, again please give King a call.



^[i]<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/prayers-related-to-sdg7-sustainable-energy>

^[ii]<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/32/19122>

^[iii]<https://www.energysage.com/energy-efficiency/101/ways-to-save-energy/>

^[iv]https://www.deegesolar.co.uk/grace_of_the_sun_robert_montgomery_solar_poem_cop26/