



ADULT
EDUCATION
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LENT

IN OUR BACKYARD

WEEK 2: MAR. 10-16

Reducing Waste

READINGS

Psalms 95:1-7

POETRY

Remake us, Living God
Collect the rubbish scattered
on the roadside,
Hidden in the thicket;
All the careless discards of our lives.
Refine them in the crucible of
Your forgiving love.
Remold the green.
Reweave the angers;
From all our wretched sin,
your beauty bring.
- Chris Polhill^[i]

^[i]Iona Community devotional

REFLECTION

How can I reorient my attitude toward reducing, reusing and recycling as something more than just an important thing to do as a good citizen in society, but as an expression of my faith?

LEARNING

Watch Tapped on the bottled water industry and its effects on your health, climate change, pollution and our reliance on oil (Library DVD, etc)

Or

Watch *A Plastic Ocean*
by Craig Leeson

CHALLENGE

Make 5 dents against single-use plastic in your household: (1) ditch plastic bottles, (2) shop with reusable bags, (3) buy bamboo toothbrushes, (4) choose products not packaged in plastic whenever possible, and (5) recycle plastic used on single-use packaging.



PRAYER

Maker of Heaven and Earth,
We pray for an end to the
Waste and desecration of Your creation,
For access to the fruits of Your creation
To be shared equally among all people
And for communities and nations to find sustenance
In the fruits of the earth and the water You have given us.
You created the world and gave it
Into our care so that, in obedience to you,
We might serve all people:
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom,
and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all;
That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be
Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine,
and oppression.
Amen.^[ii]

^[ii]An End to Waste. <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/sustainability-prayers>

FACTS

The average American uses and throws away 110 pounds of single-use plastic every year.^[iii]

According to the Rochester Institute of Technology, more than 22 million pounds of plastic pollution end up in the Great Lakes every year. Nearly 80 percent of all litter along Chicago beaches is plastic waste, which never really goes away, but just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces known as "microplastics."^[iv]

^[iii]<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/18/climate/single-use-plastic.html>

^[iv]<https://greatlakes.org/>