



GO AND...

Tell the Story

Go and...Tell the Story of Creation Care

Ideas to get more connected with creation by Gretchen Ahrens,
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In April, we celebrate Earth Day. It's a great month for us to tell the story of God's creation and our part in it by being advocates for creation care, taking time to appreciate God's creation and thinking about how we weave creation care into our own stories.

Here are some things you can do to be a part of the Creation Care Story:

Sign a personal covenant with creation (from Lutherans Restoring Creation):

[Download the form **HERE**.](#)

*Personally, I like this covenant because it is realistic, and you can choose your level of challenge. It really made me think about what I am willing to do and stretch myself a little bit. I'm not going to lie; I love my hot showers with a high-pressure shower head. So, I had to think about other ways I was going to conserve water and energy. I don't use a dishwasher, I'm installing a clothesline in my yard, and I'll make a conscious effort to only run full loads of laundry in the washer and dryer. You can select things you think you will actually do. You are e-mailed a copy of the covenant, and it is suggested that you find accountability partners and check in with in each other on a selected date.

Pray this prayer for the Earth Daily (from Interfaith Power and Light):

A prayer for our earth from Pope Francis Encyclical

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. AMEN

*I like this prayer because it reminds us that we are all a part of the story of creation care. Even if you are praying by yourself, the corporate language of we and us encompasses all of God's creatures and creation care. As you pray this prayer each day, I suggest that you intentionally look around you for examples of the smallest of creatures or places where you can sow beauty. Name out loud the worth of the living things around you. You may find that what you see or name changes each day or it may stay the same.

Play in God's Creation

This month, I encourage you to let the earth be a part of your story by playing outside. Take time to go for a hike, just because. Walk around the block or down the gravel road and let your senses take in creation: listen to noise your feet make as you walk, smell the air, hear the birds, see the little rabbit scurrying off, or notice the squirrel doing acrobatics on the telephone wire. If you like the water, go paddle a kayak around a quiet lake or go fishing in a new spot. If you aren't physically able to get outside, open a window and let the outdoors come in for a bit. Smell the air, listen to the sounds, watch the wind blow your curtains back and forth.

You can use this fun printout to track your hours outside or create your own template as a family. [FIND THE PDF HERE.](#)

As you log your activity, think about how you will tell others about it. How will you share the story of your adventure and how will you let others know it's important to care for God's creation so that all can experience it?

*For me, the more physical a story is and the more involved my senses are, the more I become involved in the story. When I can smell the wet earth after rain or stomp in puddle and feel the splash of water up my legs (yes, adults are allowed to stomp in puddles!!!) or scrub the dirt out from under my nails when I'm done gardening, I fall more deeply in love with God's creation. I become more passionate about making sure it's there to be a part of stories for generations to come.