





We honor the original inhabitants of this land, the Dakota Sioux people. This land was their “garden of Eden,” and they lived harmoniously with the land for many, many centuries.



We mourn, lament, and repent of the crimes against humanity done to the original people by European American settlers who often justified their atrocities in the name of God, Christianity, and civilization.



We mourn, lament, and repent of the conspiracy of silence that kept secret these and other crimes and atrocities for so long. We will keep silent no longer about our history of racism, bigotry, arrogance, and greed.





We commit to create a common memory of our past, so we can create a new and better way of life for our future, in equality and harmony with one another, and in harmony with this precious earth on which all life depends.



Amen.  
(Let us observe a moment of silence.)





faith  
to save  
the planet

1. faith that destroys the planet

2. doubt that saves us from that faith

3. faith that saves the planet

## faith that destroys the planet

Step 1: Say that God gave exploitive dominion to humans to rule like a tyrant over the earth.

Step 2: Say that God will soon destroy the earth, so it might as well be “returned empty.”

Step 3: Say that only human souls/spirits matter, and that matter doesn't matter.

doubt that saves us from that faith

Step 1: Doubt that God gave exploitive dominion to humans to rule like a tyrant over the earth.

Step 2: Doubt that God will soon destroy the earth, so it might as well be “returned empty.”

Step 3: Doubt that only human souls/spirits matter, and that matter doesn't matter.

## faith that saves the planet

Step 1: Discover that God gave humans responsibility to care for and protect the earth, representing God's love & care.

Step 2: Experience that God has breathed God's own breath/spirit into creation, so it is holy in every place and part.

Step 3: Realize that love matters most - love for neighbor, self, the earth, and God.

# Creation as Classroom:

“Jesus went up on the hillside and sat down. His disciples came to him and he began to teach them.” (Matthew 5)

# Creation as Classroom... and Curriculum:

O Lord, Our Lord, how majestic  
is your name in all the earth! ...  
When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers, the  
moon and the stars you have  
made ... O Lord, Our Lord, how  
majestic is your name in all the  
earth! (Ps 8)

The heavens declare the glory of  
God; the skies proclaim the work  
of God's hands! Day after day,  
they pour forth speech; night  
after night they display  
knowledge. There is no speech or  
language where their voice is not  
heard. (Ps 19)

The greatest preacher in the  
world is ...

the world itself.

The original and universal  
Bible is ...

the universe.

Creation as Classroom,  
Curriculum...  
and Teacher

Go to the ant, you lazy  
person. Consider its ways and  
be wise. (Prov. 6:6)

Ants are people of little  
strength, yet they store up  
food in the summer. (Prov.  
30:25)

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described **plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish.** Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom. ( 1 Kings 4)

- 6** I have listened attentively,  
but they do not say what is right.  
No one repents of his wickedness,  
saying, "What have I done?"  
Each pursues his own course  
like a horse charging into battle.
- 7** Even the stork in the sky  
knows her appointed seasons,  
and the dove, the swift and the thrush  
observe the time of their migration.  
But my people do not know  
the requirements of the LORD.
- 8** " 'How can you say, "We are wise,  
for we have the law of the LORD,"  
when actually the lying pen of the scribes  
has handled it falsely? (Jeremiah 8)

The LORD is good to **all**;

God has compassion on **all God has made**.

**All you have made** will praise you, O LORD;  
your saints will extol you.

...The LORD is faithful to all his promises  
and loving toward **all God has made**...

The eyes of **all** look to you,

and you give them their food at the proper time.

You open your hand

and satisfy the desires of **every living thing**.

The LORD is righteous in all God's ways

and loving toward **all God has made**. (Psalm

145: 9 ff)

No one can serve two masters.  
Either he will hate the one and love  
the other, or he will be devoted to  
the one and despise the other. You  
cannot serve both God and Money.  
(Matthew 6:24 ff)

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? **Look at the birds of the air;** they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

And why do you worry about clothes? **See how the lilies of the field grow.** They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans [i.e. the Romans, i.e. the Westerners, i.e. the “developed nations”] run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first **God's kingdom and  
God's justice\***, and all these things  
will be given to you as well.  
(Matthew 6)

**\*God's sacred ecosystem and God's  
natural balance of power ...**

Creation as Classroom,  
Curriculum, Teacher ...  
and Prophet/Evangelist,  
calling us to repentance and  
rebirth

There are about 6.8 billion people on the planet.



**Each requires about 2.5 arable acres for food and energy production.**

Long-term, a minimum of about 2 additional acres must be preserved per person for regeneration of resources and the survival of animals.

The sustainable land required per person, then, is 4.45 acres.



Right now, humans are using about 5.44 acres per person - one acre more than we have.

Sometime in the late 20th century, we exceeded the carrying capacity of the planet.

Survival requirement: 2.5

Sustainable requirement: 4.45

Actual use: 5.44

Americans, however, use  
about 23.47 acres per  
person.\*

\*From World Wildlife Federation

If everyone on earth lived like an American, we would need four more planet earths to sustain us all.

**We only have one.**



Some of our uses are sustainable. Some are not. Some reduce the earth's potential productivity forever.



What we call the creation of wealth is often simply the conversion of renewable natural wealth that belongs to everyone into nonrenewable financial wealth that belongs to one person or corporation.



Who is richer and who is poorer  
for this kind of “wealth  
creation?”





What would it mean for us to rediscover our God-given role as stewards and caretakers of this beautiful planet - not its plunderers?



How can we let creation become our classroom, curriculum, teacher, and prophet/evangelist, calling us to repentance and rebirth?

If I could write an agenda for faith to  
save the planet ...

1. The Pope (leader of earth's largest religious community) would issue a global encyclical urgently calling people to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.



1. The Pope (leader of earth's largest religious community) would issue a global encyclical that would call all people to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.



## 2. Faith leaders of all traditions would affirm this message.



# 2. Faith leaders of all traditions would affirm this message.



A large green checkmark logo is centered on a white background. The checkmark is composed of thick, rounded lines. Below the checkmark, the text "totolia" is written in a light grey, lowercase font, with "by Adia" in a smaller font underneath. In the bottom right corner of the white area, the hashtag "#229123006" is displayed in a small, dark font. Below the white area, there are logos for "Auburn" (with a blue arc above the text), "ecoAmerica" (with the tagline "start with people" below it), and a red square logo with the word "FAITH" in white capital letters.



3. Every willing congregation would develop a plan for personal, congregational, local, national, and global action ... with a time frame of ten years or less to reach maximum impact.

-every liturgy



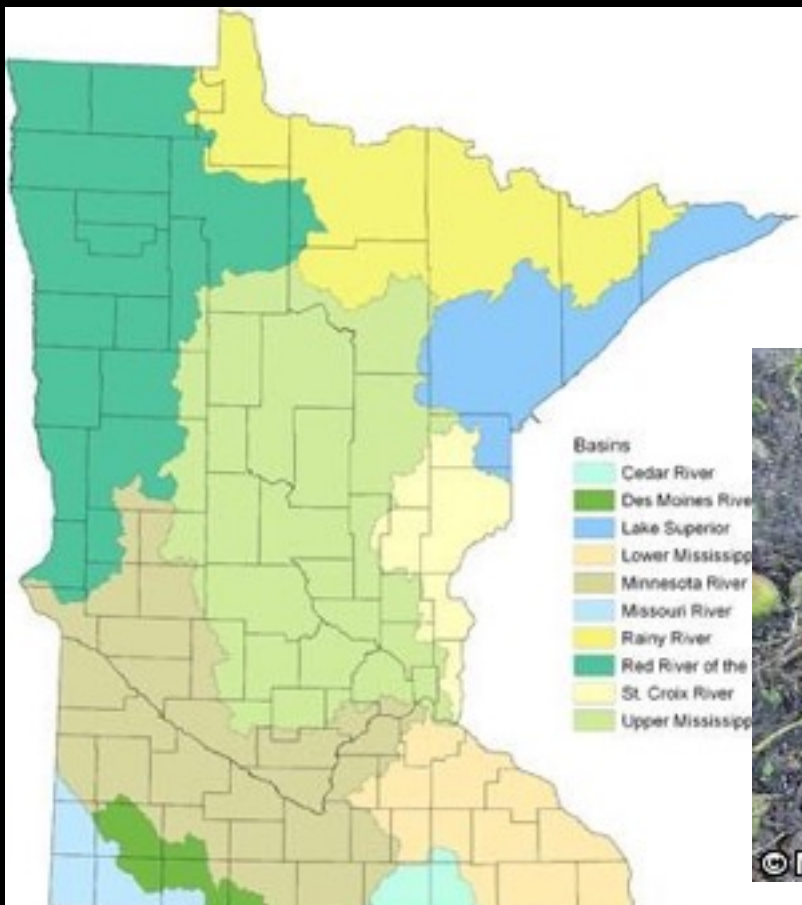
"This, then, is how you should pray:  
" 'Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done

on earth

as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6)



- a. Every liturgy
- b. Every sermon,
- c. Every budget
- d. Every year (special events)
- e. Every election (local, state, national)
- f. Every facility & property
- g. Every home
- h. Every job description
- i. Every outreach plan
- j. Every watershed (environmental address)



3. Every willing congregation would develop a plan for personal, congregational, local, national, and global action ... with a time frame of ten years or less to reach maximum impact.



415.26

[yesterday morning]



faith  
to save  
the planet



# Creation Confession

Leader: This is our regret, this is our  
lament, this is our failure, this is our sin:

ALL: Lord, have mercy!

We consider what we have done to the soil, the inheritance passed on to us from past generations ...

We consider what we have done to the air and climate, the fragile blanket that surrounds us ...

We consider what we have done to the springs, streams, rivers, bays, wetlands, and oceans upon which all life depends ...

Leader: This is our regret, this is our lament, this is our failure, this is our sin:

ALL: **Lord, have mercy!**

We consider what we have done to our sisters  
and brothers the plants and trees ...

We consider what we have done to our sisters  
and brothers the animals of sea, sky, and land ...

We consider what we have done to the  
inestimable beauty and balance of creation ...

Leader: This is our regret, this is our lament,  
this is our failure, this is our sin:

ALL: Lord, have mercy!

We consider what we can change ...

We consider how we can see things differently ...

We consider how we can make a new start ...

Leader: This is our hope, this is our opportunity, this is our commitment:

ALL: **Thank you, Lord!**



# Creation Creed

We believe in the Creator,  
Majestic designer of space and time,  
Energy artist, matter shaper,  
Poet of the universe,  
Choreographer of spinning galaxies and  
whirling atoms,  
Sculptor of spheres, joyful drummer of  
heartbeat and breath.

We believe in the Creator,  
Weaver of wonders,  
Potter of planets,  
Architect of continents,  
Master storyteller of our universe,  
Dramatist who gives us a part,  
Actor who is with us in the play.

We believe in the Creator,  
Whose unfinished masterpiece we are:  
Beautiful of color in eyes and skin,  
Skillful and virtuous and always learning,  
Speaking a thousand languages,  
Dancing a million dances,  
Smiling seven billion smiles,  
Dreaming dreams upon dreams.

We believe in the Creator  
Who saw it all, and called it  
Good!  
Yes, very good!  
Hallelujah!

We believe in the Creator

Who planted in us the insatiable hunger for beauty - to enjoy it, to make it, to live it.

The creator has invited us to join in the creative adventure -

In culture and agriculture,

In work and play,

In song and story, art and craft,

Invention and adaptation.

We believe in the Creator  
Who creates only good and who,  
When we create evil,  
Overcomes it with still more good.  
So we believe in new creation,  
Resurrection, reconnection, transformation,  
In the Spirit of God's creative joy.  
Amen!





