

Renewing the Life of the Earth

An Eco-theology Resource
Guide to the Videos



Theological Education Advisers
Anglican Communion Office
2023

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION



Renewing the Life of the Earth

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The Anglican Consultative Council
Saint Andrew's House
16 Tavistock Crescent
London W11 1AP
United Kingdom

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Introduction

**‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth’**

(The Anglican Communion’s fifth Mark of Mission)

Welcome to this set of video presentations on ecological theology and practice, at an introductory (Certificate) level. This resource introduces some key issues and questions in this area, and includes lists of further online resources. The material is presented in a way that allows it to be incorporated within existing modules and programmes. The videos present a range of voices from across the Anglican Communion – from all kinds of people and from all kinds of backgrounds, from the academy and from local churches, in a number of languages. It is designed for anyone who wants to start to engage with the issues relating to ecological theology and practice, not least for theological colleges and church programmes. The videos are available on the following YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/@EcoTheology/playlists

Learning Goals

Engaging with these videos will allow participants to

- hear from a range of voices on the environmental crises that the world is experiencing;
- hear how theologians in different contexts are responding;
- reflect on issues related to these environmental crises to broaden and deepen their own thinking;
- find ways to respond to the crises in worship, prayer and practical actions;
- find practical ways to encourage community responses in church and society.

A Guide for Facilitators

Each video or set of videos can be used in small group discussions and/or incorporated into teaching modules or programmes. Each section has a range of videos from academics, church leaders and activists (some of whom are all of these) which offer reflections and further questions.

It is important for facilitators to watch and be familiar with the videos before leading each session. Participants in group studies are encouraged to watch the videos together, within the following kind of structure for each session:

Session outline (which can be adapted)

1. Facilitators create a welcoming space so that participants can respect and listen to each other with openness and humility.
2. An opening prayer invites God's Spirit to open hearts and minds to the insights of others.
3. The facilitator introduces the topic and invites members of the group to share their initial thoughts and questions.
4. The designated videos from one of the sections are watched, with participants taking note of what they learn and how they react. (It is advisable to download the video(s) before each session).
5. Each participant shares what they have learnt and how their outlook has been or is being changed.
6. The discussion questions printed within each section can be used to encourage discussion.
7. The facilitator encourages each participant to make a practical response (small or large) to what they have learnt, to be put into practice in the week ahead.
8. Closing prayer.

The discussion questions are meant to invite conversation and the sharing of experiences. There are no right or wrong answers.

A safe and encouraging space

We recommend that study groups are small, with around six to ten members, so that there is opportunity for everyone to contribute.

Facilitators should be aware of the power dynamics in the group (such as race, gender, class, age, educational level, etc.) when creating a safe space for dialogue and mutual learning. Participants may have different levels of knowledge about the environmental crises and ecotheology. Some may not have had many opportunities for listening to voices from other cultures. They will need encouragement, guidance and patience from facilitators. Facilitators also need to leave space for individual learning, knowing that each participant learns in their own way and at their own speed.

In addition to creating a safe space, it is important to pay attention to the local context and culture of those in the group as these shape the experience of participants. Entering into conversation with others through watching and discussing different videos will provide a mirror with which to look at our context anew. Facilitators can adapt the discussion questions to their local context(s) and add other contextually appropriate questions.

Each section includes references and links to videos available from the Internet and important books on the topic. They will be helpful for those who want to pursue studies in these topics.

Personal study

These videos can also be used by people studying on their own, though in such cases it is important not to rush through and lose the opportunity to reflect on what is being seen and heard. It will be helpful to keep a log of reactions and responses to each video.

See-Judge-Act

The design of this resource draws on an approach to learning often described as the 'See-Judge-Act' approach, or 'Taking in, Taking stock, Taking action'.¹ It is a simple but effective three-step method of reflection and action which moves from the learner's context to the issue in question (in this case, the environmental crises of our time) and then to a practical response, to be repeated again and again. The encounter of the two disciples with Jesus on the road to Emmaus provides an exemplary example of this method from scripture (Luke 24.13-35).

See

The first step is all about coming to see the situation in which we find ourselves – our 'context'. Such an analysis will ask what is happening, who is involved, and what are its effects. In this case, with current environmental crises as the subject, it is all about listening (via the videos) to the voices of those within our Communion who are disproportionately impacted by the climate emergency. Their stories then invite us to reflect on the situation in our own contexts. This first step of the pedagogical process requires a degree of careful listening and is best done as a group exercise, so participants can analyse their own context(s) together. The videos in the 'See' section of this resource all help with this.

Judge

The second step is all about gaining a critical perspective on the issues at hand, by learning from others such as young people, those who have been marginalised by church and society, academic theologians, church leaders. This is when the videos in Part 2 can be watched. The video content can also be supplemented by reading and reflecting on scripture as well as learning from official church texts and texts from other agencies. How do all of these sources change our own thinking? How do they change the way we read the Bible, how we understand church history, how we understand God the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit, and the mission that flows from them through history and into our own time?

1 See, for example, Simon Cuff, *Love in Action: Catholic Social Teaching for Every Church*, London: SCM Press, Chapter 8: 'See, Judge, Act'. Cuff traces the origins of this approach back to St Thomas Aquinas. On 'Taking in, Taking stock and Taking action' see *God's Justice: Just Relationships between Women and Men, Girls and Boys: Study Materials for use by Theological Colleges, Seminaries and Training Schemes in the Anglican Communion*, Section 2, pp.14-18, Anglican Communion Office 2019, <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/348551/TEAC-Just-relationships-women-men.pdf> These approaches are similar in some respects to the 'pastoral cycle' found in much recent pastoral and practical theology.

Act

In response to the critical perspectives gained in the second step, the third step is all about deciding how to respond in personal and practical ways. We begin by thinking about our own lives and habits of worship, prayer and practical action, and then move through to think about the life of our local churches and those communities beyond. How should the mission of the church participate in the mission of God within the environmental crises of our time? How should we work with others (human and other-than-human) to advance common aspirations? How should we change the way we live, individually and as communities? All this is best done as a group exercise so that we can support each other in these changes and hold each other to the commitments we make.

Acknowledgements

Thank you from the Working Group to all the contributors for making and sharing these videos. They are a taonga (Māori for 'treasured gift') from Anglicans and others for Anglicans and others to help us think through and engage with Eco-theology within the wider response of churches to the environmental crises of our time. Thank you also to USPG for financial assistance for this project.

Members of the Working Group

Rebecca Boardman is the ecological justice lead at the Anglican mission agency USPG and lives in the UK. She is a geographer by training and is currently undertaking an MA in Religion in Global Politics.

Emily Colgan is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Trinity Theological College in Aotearoa New Zealand. She researches and writes about ecological representations in the Bible and what this means for how Christians respond to the climate crisis.

Wallace de Góis Silva, Master in Science of Religion, Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil; Bachelor of Theology and Philosophy. He is currently a PhD candidate in Philosophy, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, studying religiosity and spirituality in Michel Foucault and Paul Tillich. He acted as a theological and editorial advisor for this project.

Rachel Mash is the Environmental Coordinator for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. She is a member of the UN Faith for Earth task team on Pollution and a steering group member for the ecumenical Season of Creation. She is the secretary of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network.

Stephen Spencer is Adviser for Theological Education and Lambeth Conference Implementation at the Anglican Communion Office, London. He is a canon of Mara Diocese, Tanzania, and an Honourary Research Fellow in the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Durham, UK.

Paulo Ueti is Theological Adviser and Latin American Regional Director for the Anglican Alliance and Advisor for Theological Education and Interpretation/ Translation at the Anglican Communion Office. He is adviser for the Ecumenical Centre for Biblical Studies-CEBI/Brazil and a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Brazilian Association of Biblical Research.

Part 1 'SEE'

Taking in – what on Earth is going on?

Scripture

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along? (Luke 24:13-17)

Videos

1. **SEE – Indigenous Voices from Amazonia**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MbuS2vQWPA



2. **SEE – Youth Voices from Africa – Uganda**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvHlr4nouoM



3. **SEE – Indigenous Voices from Aotearoa-NZ**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsSEKnNy0_Y



4. **SEE – Indigenous Voices from Africa – Swaziland**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD7_oAtwz_o



5. **SEE – Anglican Women – Ecological Justice, Gender Equity**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiXRj-pAKBU



Discussion Questions for *Seeing*

What is going on, locally and globally, as far as we can tell? How do the videos add to your understanding of the climate crises of our time?

How do the experiences of those in the videos make an impact on your understanding of these crises and on your theology?

Further Resources

Videos for an Environmental Overview

drive.google.com/file/d/1zoWEoQoNozB2_500GM1xC0ePbj58qvli/view?usp=share_link

Videos on Indigenous and the Environment

drive.google.com/file/d/1AsMe_2EpcnD9VvuNmH4o9CAFHMMmVtI/view?usp=share_link

Texts for an Environmental Overview

drive.google.com/file/d/1FyCFgWTQS6bd8UKJvtCku6_ouxFeErRo/view?usp=share_link

Texts on Indigenous and the Environment

drive.google.com/file/d/1C55fOxVXiAsa2243FIZNt_f0Z_0eTVif/view?usp=share_link

Part 2 'JUDGE'

Taking stock – how is the way we read the Bible and think about God and participate in mission being changed?

1 Ecological Interpretation of the Bible

Re-thinking how we read the Bible from an ecological perspective

Scripture

'How long will the Earth mourn?' (Jeremiah 12.4)

Videos

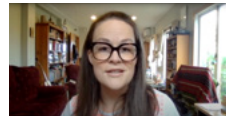
6. **JUDGE – Biblical Interpretation – Paulo Ueti**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYsbbLK1hzM



7. **JUDGE – Biblical Interpretation – Question 1 with Emily Colgan and others**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vns0ICbiv2Y



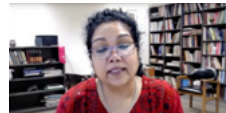
8. **JUDGE – Biblical Interpretation – Question 2 with Richard Acosta and others**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_V4yk_Q05ho



9. **JUDGE – Biblical Interpretation – Question 3 with Monica Melanchthon and others**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfuBUBhOG-o



2 Theology

How to think about God and creation from within an Ecological perspective

Scripture

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:22-27)

Videos

10. **JUDGE – Theology – Richard Acosta (on God)**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pVsbQpQ8dA



11. **JUDGE – Theology – Bishop Humberto Maiztegui (on Creation)**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIB5zcSA2P8



3 Missiology

Re-imagining mission from an ecological perspective

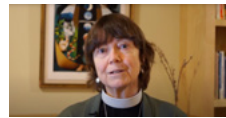
Scripture

“The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” (Mark 4.26-29)

Videos

12. **JUDGE – Missiology – Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHtayohJi2s



13. **JUDGE – Missiology – Dave Bookless**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfYt9hxkm9s



14. **JUDGE – Missiology – Elizabeth Perry**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMeCKZGj1Do



15. **JUDGE – Missiology – Bishop Steven Abbarow**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxJLKAwBIA



4 Politics and Ethics

Re-thinking Christian action from an ecological perspective

Scripture

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6.8)

Videos

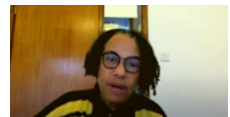
16. **JUDGE – Politics and Ethics – Introduction with Rebecca Boardman and others**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI4zERmyxM0



17. **JUDGE – Politics and Ethics – Question 1 with George Zechariah and others**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9PDbhQj2jg



18. **JUDGE – Politics and Ethics – Question 2 with Rene August and others**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyWx2ABWZZo



19. **JUDGE – Politics and Ethics – Question 3 with Jeffrey Metcalfe and others**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ohzg3L2a984



Discussion Questions for *Judging*

From what you have heard in this section, what has stuck with you?
What has challenged you? What has been your main take away?

How does what you have heard change the way you read the Bible?

How does what you have heard change the way you understand God the
Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit?

How does what you have heard change the way you understand God's
mission and the way you participate in that?

Further Resources

Videos about Mission and Caring the for Creation

drive.google.com/file/d/1Of7PETzXqUXG0cA5k0cX1JWxvjFW_RpO/view?usp=share_link

Videos about Women and Climate Change

drive.google.com/file/d/1n7EtJDk5q84UPBV8i7ec5IN-Rd1Td5zp/view?usp=share_link

Videos about Theology and God's Creation

drive.google.com/file/d/1zpjZ6_2cSelq45Ail2iut05pljiBHIGk/view?usp=share_link

Videos about Ecological Biblical Hermeneutics

drive.google.com/file/d/1IABD-oPRqudYR5UNohig981aDsKsjoNk/view?usp=share_link

Texts about Mission and Caring for the Creation

drive.google.com/file/d/1VdDpf2UOD1ECH0f1hhpfCoxl67luT3ma/view?usp=share_link

Texts about Gender, Theology and Eco-feminism

drive.google.com/file/d/1FI2BlpmRtYxrcJn87Kx_8MjAXPx4S7BA/view?usp=share_link

Texts on Ecological Biblical Hermeneutics

drive.google.com/file/d/1JTuDsfWZtucLcPF4FeJhpp28y-9llf5/view?usp=share_link

Texts about Theology and God's Creation

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LKlYZEW_3yWoEFhEHn3BwHcoKVI9qgoW/view?usp=share_link

Part 3 'ACT'

Taking action – how do we respond in personal and collective ways?

Scripture

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth for in these I delight," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Videos

1. Spirituality and Liturgy

Responding through prayer and worship

20. **ACT – Spirituality and Liturgy – Jacynthia Murphy**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olq2HrnX82Y



21. **ACT – Spirituality and Liturgy – Bishop Marinez Bassotto**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T538mTK5dQ



22. **ACT – Spirituality and Liturgy – Aurelio Uqueio**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvwefHN3RbQ



23. **ACT – Spirituality and Liturgy – Society of St Francis SSF**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Btf8D4por8Q



24. **ACT – Spirituality and Liturgy – Shaun Cozett**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GTCCtt4Tes



2. Discipleship

Responding in daily life

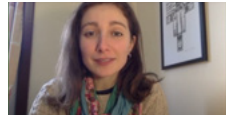
25. **ACT – Discipleship – Introduction with Rachel Mash**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvMNcN3ezXs



26. **ACT – Discipleship – Bishop Moon Hing**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY6OdbcVEao



27. **ACT – Discipleship – Hannah Malcolm**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yliyuGDeqsE



28. **ACT – Discipleship – Church of South India CSI**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2oXJTVFWTI



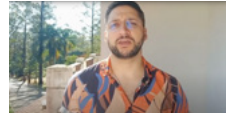
29. **ACT – Discipleship – Mercio Langa**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjEPA39rj6E



3. Climate Advocacy

Responding in solidarity with others

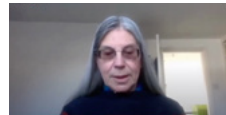
30. **ACT - Climate Advocacy - Ecumenical Youth - Wallace Gois**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HKQ0iQDIM8



31. **ACT - Climate Advocacy - Jessica Hughes**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RINiE4TA4QI



32. **ACT - Climate Advocacy - in Action CCA**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nK5JQdBkHw



33. **ACT - Climate Advocacy - Jack Palmer-White, UN**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW-0mzHQ0f8



Discussion Questions for Act

How should we respond to the environmental crisis in personal and practical ways, beginning with our own lives and our habits of worship, prayer and practical action?

How should we respond through the life of our local churches and in partnership with other concerned groups?

How should we work with others to advance our shared common hopes?

How should we change the way we live?

Overall, how can we participate in the mission of God in response to the environmental crises of our time?

How does all this change the way we think about the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission?

The Five Marks of Mission

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Further Resources

Videos about Youth and Environmentalism

drive.google.com/file/d/1o-r82F6z7QEIgnjGB9_3iQ9v--nPNMeC/view?usp=share_link

Texts about Youth and Environmentalism

drive.google.com/file/d/1eOJQ92eDkxXSW3sS_YqvXdLBWkJKITCM/view?usp=share_link

Texts and Inspirations for Spirituality and Liturgy

drive.google.com/file/d/1U0o_rTdfATbhx6ShVI-OyBPjKnaHYgr/view?usp=share_link

Texts about Ethics, Politics and Activism

drive.google.com/file/d/1FmW1zC2RFIWdZEr7ei6zpKAEL0WCGddV/view?usp=share_link

Texts about Discipleship in Action for Climate Justice

drive.google.com/file/d/1DjKI9a8Wz5jKEbuSSeCVyF4XPBMPHy_w/view?usp=share_link

