Because the world can change a lot in 40 days.

**Lenten Creation Care 2019**

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God’s Creation throughout this season. May this calendar remind us to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it. On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty—those most harmed by our damaged climate—may we answer God’s call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care.

A prayer from Psalm 51: 
*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

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| A prayer from Psalm 51:  
*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*  
Creator God, we begin this Lenten Season asking for Your renewal. Through prayer, fasting, and sharing over these 40 days, we ask that our eyes be opened to the ways we can do better; in our relationships with You, Your Creation, and all those with whom we share this, our common home. Lord, help us to restore what has been damaged through our sinful overconsumption and the systemic injustices that surround us, returning to You with renewed spirits. | Read Deut. 26 and consider composting your food waste, returning nutrients to the soil. Compost at home or curbside with advice for * San Mateo County  
* Santa Clara County  
"You will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."  
- Isaiah 58:12b | Take a contemplative walk around your neighborhood, park, or nearby wooded area. Listen and look for signs of the Creator’s touch. | Ash Wednesday  
*All are from the dust, and to dust all return."  
- Ecclesiastes 3:20  
Reflect with gratitude on the reality that we all are made of and fed by the Earth. | Is your local waterway clean enough for baptism?  
Learn its name and pray:  
"God of sacred waters, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. May we be a blessing to Your waters."  
Learn about the Santa Clara Valley Watershed. | Fasting from meat is a centuries old Lenten tradition. Try eating vegetarian today, and check out Oxfam’s Eat for Good guide online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good | 8 |
| Consider your gifts and talents. Pray and meditate on how your time, talent, treasure, and testimony may be used to care for our Common Home. | Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree.  
In cold weather, aim for 68° during the day and 60° at night. Buy a programmable thermostat if you can. Always turn the heat off when you leave home. | On average, a family of four in the US uses 40 gallons of water per day just in the shower! Set a timer for 5 minutes and consider installing a low-flow shower head: EPA.gov/WaterSense/showerheads | 17 |
| Make one of your journeys more environmentally-friendly today. Could you combine two trips? Carpool rather than driving solo? Bike, walk, or take public transit, instead of driving? | Consider your gifts and talents. Pray and meditate on how your time, talent, treasure, and testimony may be used to care for our Common Home. | Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree.  
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| Weatherize your home and prevent heat (and money) from being wasted! Find project ideas and how-tos: bit.ly/weatherizehome | Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree.  
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| So many of God’s children are caring for Creation. Check out this web comic to learn how our Muslim neighbors are going green: bit.ly/RYERpC | Reduce your home energy bill and promote clean energy. Check out our guides that help you or your congregation consider solar: interfaithpower.org/resources/solar-resource-guide | As you fast from meat today, consider plant-based dishes for Easter Sunday: StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes | 20 |
| Reduce your home energy bill and promote clean energy. Check out our guides that help you or your congregation consider solar: interfaithpower.org/resources/solar-resource-guide | As you fast from meat today, consider plant-based dishes for Easter Sunday: StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes | Mark 1:10  
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*As he was coming up out of the water …* | Weather is the basis for all life in the universe. Use water mindfully today, and find one way to support the health of God’s sacred waters. | 22 |

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Urls that begin with bit.ly are case sensitive; all other links are not.
Easter Sunday — Col 1:19-20

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

“The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout Creation by his universal Lordship” — Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Take some time today to reflect on all of the activities you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the Earth and with all life. Conclude your Lenten Creation Care practice by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life.