

CREATION TIPS: LITURGY

The work of the people in our communities shapes who we are. The things we do during services and at home say a lot about what we care for and who we say we are.



1 PLAN A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL THAT WILL BENEFIT GOD'S CREATION

Look for devotionals that your congregation can study related to Creation. You may also consider trying a carbon fast. You may also consider trying a carbon fast. If you live in a place with an active state chapter of [Interfaith Power and Light](#), it can be fun to find a local community doing a carbon fast together. Check out Creation Justice Ministries Christian [education materials](#).

2 LEAD THE NEXT GENERATION TO LOVE NATURE

Create a scavenger hunt or play I Spy that is age-appropriate for your children, grandchildren, or neighborhood children. Invite them to observe and wonder. Add a sketch pad and colored pencils or allow them to use phone cameras to document their treasures from the day. Talk about God's call to us to take care of creation.



3 START TALKING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AS A MISSION

Many churches now have a ministry specifically focused on taking care of the environment. You could decide your goal is to go on mission trips specifically to serve the environment or to do things in your own local community. Just having the conversation could lead to so many missions.



4 START A CHURCH COMPOST

Churches, especially ones with a parking lot or extra green space, can invest in compost containers and invite parishioners and the community to bring their green waste from home. If you live in a city without compost, this is a great way to cut down on waste and is a minimal amount of work.



5 READ A BOOK CONCERNING CREATION CARE

Here are just a few titles that can get you started.

Garbage Theology by Rev. Caleb Cray Haynes

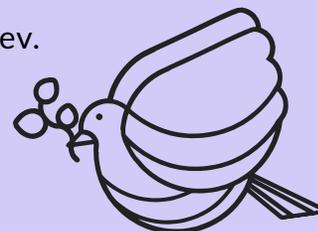
50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Congregation Can Make a Difference by Rev. Rebecca Barnes of Presbyterian Church (USA)

Creation as Sacrament: Reflections on Ecology and Spirituality by Fr. John Chryssavgis of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis by Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of the Episcopal Church and Rev. Dr. Leah Schade of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change by Rev. Jim Antal of the United Church of Christ

Check out more books on N4CC's [website](#).



CREATION TIPS: LITURGY II

LOCALIZE YOUR ALTAR DECORATIONS (AND EVERYTHING ELSE)



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Instead of decorating with new flowers each week, why not get something potted that grows through the season? Or bring flowers from parishioners' homes during the summer? Or make flowers from reused tissue paper! This is just an easy example, but the shift is really thinking about how to use the resources, skills, and stuff that you already have locally. Some churches empower people to bake the communion bread at home.

7

CELEBRATE ZERO-WASTE COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hours are a vital time for snacking and fellowship, but like any church get-together, it has the potential to create a lot of waste. Say 20 people use a plastic fork and a paper plate each week. That's 1000 extra items into landfills in a year. Try to make the switch to use the cups, plates, and silverware that are already in your kitchens. Start a dish or clean up crew and stop using disposables. Who knows, maybe someone in your congregation was looking for a way to serve. If you just can't make it work, choose items that are recyclable (or compostable). If you can, at least use your coffee cups instead of disposable ones; very few are recyclable or compostable.



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WORSHIP LITURGY

Check out Nazarenes for Creation Care's [website](#) for various prayers and songs that you can implement into your services.

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There you can find resources linking to other things like the [climate witness project](#).

The Season of Creation [website](#) is another great place to look for elements to add to your worship service.



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RECYCLE THOSE PROGRAMS (AND PRINT LESS)

If you have programs, be sure that you are also recycling them and using post-consumer recycled copy paper to print on. Have a paper recycling bin at the ready at the back of the church. If you don't really need a program, skip it. If you have a projector, use it.

You can find ways to reuse the programs as well. Try making [seed paper](#) with your children so they can see what can be done with the things we don't need anymore.



MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS GREEN

Take some time to reflect with your family on ways to be more green in the next year! Can you invest in solar energy panels? Share your New Year's Resolutions with us on our Instagram or [Facebook page](#). We love to see how you are engaging in this work with us

