

the  Venues
Go Deep

Discover the Earth
Earth Day 2020 – April 22, 2020
4.19.2020

Which statement best represents your view of environmental concerns?

- _____ *Not concerned at all. It's all a hoax.*
_____ *A little concerned, but let's not get crazy about it.*
_____ *God's got this.*
_____ *Very concerned! What on earth are we doing to the earth?!!*

NASA (<https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>) reports that 97% of climate scientists agree that climate changes are extremely likely due to human activity. Only 28% of “white evangelicals” agree with those scientists.

Why are some people in general and some Christians in particular resistant to science?

The story of creation told by the Hebrews says that God said “It is good” and “It is very good” (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 25, 31) at different stages of creation. “Good” is also used in Exodus 2:2 to describe the newborn baby, Moses. But there it is translated “beautiful.”

*How does “beautiful” shape your view and treatment of the planet?
What do you consider beautiful about the planet? The universe?
Is it accurate to call God a “tree hugger”?*

The Hebrew story of creation continues with humans being instructed to care for the garden (the planet). Read Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 2:15.

*What words are used to describe humanity's responsibility to the planet?
How are those words used to support both sides of the environmental care question?*

Read Psalm 24:1.

*How does the “ownership” principle guide us in how we treat the planet?
If you loan your car to a friend, how do you want your friend to treat your car?*

As we “discover” the planet, think of two words: Reflection and Connection.

Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:20 speak to us of **Reflection**.

St Bonaventure (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonaventure>), a Franciscan, wrote that “the first book of revelation was the book of creation.”

Fr Richard Rohr, a Franciscan, wrote, “Don't dare put the second Bible in the hands of people who have not sat lovingly at the feet of the first Bible. They will inevitably mangle, and murder the written text.”

What do you think about those statements? How have you seen Rohr's statement lived out?

Look at **Connection** in light of Colossians 1:17, 1 Corinthians 15:47 and Romans 8:21-22.

How does our connection with creation affect our care for creation?

How will you see creation differently?