



Sermon Excerpts:

***“Worshipping God by Respecting and Caring  
for God’s Creation”***

***Sermon II***

September 12, 2021

**Genesis 2:15** *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”*

**Currency of Wellness:** The state of being healthy physically, socially, economically, ENVIROMENTALLY, and spiritually within a church or ministry, the neighborhood, the town and city, nation, or the earth, especially as the result of deliberate effort. Sustainable wellness requires regenerative and circulatory flow of material, human, financial, and natural resources.

**Exodus 23:10-11** *“For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what is left. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.”*

**Matthew 6:26** *“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.”*

- The responsibility to care for the environment continues to each generation. We cannot embrace the parts of the Bible about soul issues and ignore the parts relevant to practical concerns.
- We are called for engaging faithfully in environmental justice work, agricultural production, healthy food access and food systems, creation care ministries, land use issues, policy advocacy, and environmental management.
- Urging, insisting, and pleading with people to hold a continual awareness of global, national, or even local interconnectedness is a counsel of righteousness.

#### **Four Action Steps to Worshipping God by Respecting and Caring for God's Creation:**

- 1) Consider your own connection to nature.
- 2) Foster greater awareness of your natural surroundings.
- 3) Actively appreciate the good and growing things that surround us.
- 4) Accept that better understanding can lead to a better change.

#### ***Prayer***

*God our Father, as we celebrate the beauty and diversity of your creation, forgive us of our neglect of your creation, the choking waste of our pollution, the damage done by careless habits, and our indifference to future generations.*

*God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the earth. We pray for earth's soil, that its richness be protected to assure abundant harvests for all.*

*We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who have been and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change.*

*We pray for future generations, may they learn from our environmental irresponsibility, and be good stewards living simply and in harmony with all your creation.*

*Grant us your grace that we may exercise wise stewardship of this earth; and cherish its resources; that our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations, and your name be glorified through all that you have made. Amen.*

*Please give each one of us the desire and the means to put things right; no longer trusting in ourselves but in your grace and wisdom alone. Help us to amend our lives and habits.*

*Teach us to be responsible stewards of this world and to seek the common good, that through your blessing all may flourish, and creation sings your praise.*

*Everlasting God, we pray, the mind and heart to rejoice in the majesty of creation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*