



Time to Turn Around

Sustainable September 2022

Caring for creation is a key Christian task.

Every year the Social Justice Commission resources the church to focus on sustainability during September by preparing worship material for each Sunday. Resources include a liturgy outline, sermon reflection, children's activities and an adaptable Powerpoint slideshow for each week. Resources are available for download on www.ecochurcheswa.net

Week 1 - 4 September

The challenge and the cost.

Week 2 - 11 September

Finding that which is precious.

Week 3 - 18 September

The politics of sustainability.

Week 4 - 25 September

Hoping for the good - changing for the good.



Uniting Church in Australia
Social Justice WA

For enquiries contact the Social Justice Unit
email - justice@wa.uca.org.au
phone - 9260 9800

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"We seek the flourishing of the whole of God's Creation and all its creatures. We act to renew the earth from the damage done and stand in solidarity with people most impacted by human-induced climate change. Government, churches, businesses and the wider community work together for a sustainable future." 'Our Vision for a Just Australia', Uniting Church in Australia.

The Uniting Church has always had a deep concern for the environment and takes seriously the call to care for creation.

Why is it 'Time to Turn Around'?

For decades now we have been aware of the impacts our humanity is having on our planet's atmosphere and environment. The climate is getting progressively warmer and yet the world (including Australia) has burnt fossil fuels at a faster rate than ever before. The world is losing species and natural habitat and yet the world (and Australia) continues to mine, clear and bulldoze at increasingly alarming levels. We clog the oceans with our plastics, the air and ground with our toxins, and we could go on.

It is 'Time to Turn Around' (it is well past time actually, but let's start from where we are). It is time to turn around in our thinking and our actions. It is time to reset our relationship with the creation and with how we see ourselves as human beings.

In our values, identity and relationships this is a spiritual crisis as much as any social or technological one. As God's people we ourselves must turn around, but we can also be voices and agents of change for others to do likewise.

This September we call on all people of faith and indeed the whole global community to "open your eyes, people! Look what's happening! It is time to turn around."

About this resource.

The celebration of Sustainable September brings us back year after year to pray and work for a world for all to share, both now and in the future.

The Social Justice Commission has provided resources for each Sunday in September which includes liturgy outlines, sermon reflections, children's resources and Powerpoint slides, which you are welcome to use and adapt to your particular church setting.

Download the set of resources at www.ecochurcheswa.net or contact Geoff or Wendy at the Social Justice Unit on 9260 9800 or justice@wa.uca.org.au for them to be sent directly to you.



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Other Resource Ideas for Sustainable September

Prayers from the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
<https://www.arrcc.org.au/reflect-prayers-christian>

Songs

'Garden' - A song written by Mikali Anagnostis For Season of Creation 2020
Performed by Mikali, Emma Sproul, Hannah Buckley and Gabby Cadenhead
Filmed by Sybil Mendonca <https://youtu.be/ob5dAbmnn2o>

'Dadirri' (Official Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Video) https://youtu.be/tow2tR_ezL8

Further Reading

- Jonathan Manning and Simon Ingram, '26 facts that bring home the reality of climate change ...and four that offer hope'. National Geographic. Published 30 Oct 2021, updated 5 Nov 2021, <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/26facts>.
- S. Lily Mendoza and George Zachariah (eds.). Decolonizing Ecotheology: Indigenous and Subaltern Challenges. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2022.
- Karlie Noon and Krystal de Napoli. Astronomy: Sky Country (First Knowledges series, Margo Neale, ed.), Port Melbourne, Thames and Hudson, 2022.
- Richard Rohr. The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder. Cincinnati, Ohio: Franciscan Media, 2020 edition.

Why not hold a movie night?

- 'Don't Look Up' (2021) a satirical movie about two astronomers who warn about an approaching comet that will destroy planet Earth.
- 'An Inconvenient Truth'. US Vice President Al Gore presents the science and stakes of the crisis
- 'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power' showcases both the amazing progress that's been made as well as how much further we still have to go to solve the climate crisis.

