

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY SUNDAY

APRIL 20, 2008



Earth Day Sunday or **Creation Sunday** is the Sunday closest to Earth Day (April 22). In 2008, we celebrate **Earth Day Sunday on April 20**. Churches celebrate this occasion in a variety of ways.

In Worship

This celebration lends itself particularly well to the use of a variety of media. Worship leaders can integrate projected images of scenes of natural beauty, animals or plants. Recorded sounds can be used— such as birdsong or ocean waves. Flowers or seeds can be distributed as living symbols of the miracle of life and growth.

- **JOY AND THANKSGIVING** for the beauty and wonders of God's creation
- **CONFESSION** of our individual and collective neglect of our stewardship and our greed in consuming more than our fair share of earth's resources
- **REFLECTION** upon the bounty of God's goodness as seen in the earth
- **COMMITMENT** to greater faithfulness as stewards of creation.

In Learning

Christian education programs for all ages on this day can be oriented towards themes of the goodness of creation, the beauty of the earth and our stewardship responsibilities.

In Practical Projects

Theory can be put into practice with hands-on projects after or prior to worship. Examples might include inaugurating a new recycling program; distributing compact fluorescent bulbs; holding a picnic in a neighboring park; planting trees; organizing a nature walk with an amateur or professional naturalist.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

The National Council of Churches Ecojustice Division has published resource materials for Earth Day Sunday each year since 2002. Each year they follow a particular theme; in 2008 it is Poverty and Climate Change. Resource materials for Earth Day 2008 as well as materials from previous years are accessible on the NCC website (www.nccecojustice.org). The Evangelical Environmental Network encourages churches to celebrate Creation Sunday and provides a series of worship resources and ideas on their website (www.creationcare.org/resources/sunday/). Earth Ministry is an interdenominational Christian organization based in the Pacific Northwest that lists a rich selection of worship resources on its website (www.earthministry.org/Congregations/worship_aids.htm)