

# CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER: EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE

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## Prayer

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image.

We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you.

We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations:

"God speaks: the heavens are made;  
God breathes: the stars shine.  
God bottles the waters of the sea  
and stores them in the deep  
All earth, be astounded,  
stand in awe of God."

*Taken from liturgy materials used on Earth  
Day 1997 at Seattle University  
Provided by Earth Ministry*

## Introducing: The Episcopal Ecological Network

"The *Episcopal Ecological Network (EpEN)* is a nationwide network within the *Episcopal Church USA* that coordinates with the *Peace and Justice Ministries Office* of the Episcopal Church USA. As such we are part of the worldwide Anglican Communion and find our roots in the Celtic Spirituality of this tradition. The *EpEN* includes all concerned Episcopalians who are helping our Church assume a leadership role in the worldwide environmental movement, just as our Church leads in other peace and justice issues. . . . helping the Episcopal Church in the USA to advocate and articulate protection of the environment and preserving the sanctity of creation."

Check it out at <http://eenonline.org>

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## Get Rid of Plastic Bags... And Plastic!

The raw material of plastic bags is oil.

Therefore, the more

we use plastic bags, the more we waste oil - a non-renewable energy source.

The petroleum-based plastic bags take decades to break down, so if they are not recycled they litter. It creates visual pollution: in the streets, on the beaches etc. Also, they can clog roadside drains, which could cause street flooding during heavy rainfall.

Plastic bags can be recycled but it rarely happens: according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, only



1% of plastic bags were recycled in 2000, against twenty percent for paper bags.

They endanger wildlife and particularly sea life such as sea turtles and dolphins which can die of entanglement, suffocation, and ingestion because they assume that these bags are jellyfish.

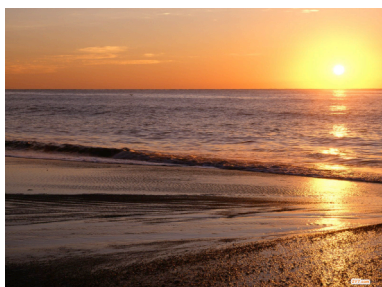


### Hymn: Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, like the first  
morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the  
morning  
Praise for them springing, fresh from the  
Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from  
heaven  
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet  
garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet  
pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every  
morning  
God's recreation of the new day  
(Eleanor Fargeon)



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### Some Excerpts From

## THE GREEN FACE OF GOD: CHRISTIANITY IN AN AGE OF ECOCIDE

by Mark I. Wallace

“Moreover, insofar as the environmental crisis is a matter of the heart the crisis at its core is a spiritual crisis. The environmental crisis is a *spiritual* crisis because the continued degradation of the earth threatens the fundamental goods and values that bind human beings to one another and all other forms of life. At a very deep level we no longer feel our common kinship with other beings as the basis for earth-friendly action and commitment. We have lost that primordial sense of belonging to a whole web of life that our kind and otherkind need for daily sustenance.”

“But in saying that the earth crisis is a spiritual crisis I also mean that the problem is explicitly a religious problem in the sense that the promulgation of particular theological teachings has led to the ravaging of earth communities. . . .”

Today we need a conversion of the heart to an integrated planetary vision of a green earth where all persons live in harmony with their natural environments. May the Holy Spirit, as divine force for sustenance and renewal in all things, come into our hearts and minds and persuade us to work toward a seamless social-environmental ethic of justice toward all God's creatures.

Interested? You can find the whole of Mark's essay at <http://www.crosscurrents.org/wallacef00.htm>

Please send comments and contributions to [shifferd@centurytel.net](mailto:shifferd@centurytel.net)