

# All Creation Gives God Praise: An Earth Day Webinar

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

[CatholicClimateCovenant.org](http://CatholicClimateCovenant.org)



**Catholic Climate Covenant**<sup>sm</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

# All Creation Gives God Praise: An Earth Day Webinar

Lord of all Creation, Maker of Heaven and Earth, Good Provider,

Today we come before you in grief, in shame, to lament the loss of beautiful creatures.

We grieve the more than one-in-four flowering plants, the one-in-five mammals, the nearly one-in-three amphibians, and the one-in-eight birds that are vulnerable to being wiped out completely.

We acknowledge that we play a part in this dying by our carelessness, ignorance, and indifference. Forgive us our part in the death of healthy ecosystems and the resulting extinction of your creatures.

Refresh our love for all you have made. Renew our resolve to advocate, fight, nurture and defend our fellow creatures. Thank you for those who care for the earth - the gardeners, the activists, the scientists, the zoologists - sustain them and protect their hearts as they strive and grieve.

We thank you for the magnificent world which you have bestowed upon us. We thank you that you can do more than all we ask or imagine and so we ask for your help - restrain human evil, energize us for service, fill us with courage and hope.

May your world ever be very very good.

Amen



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# Control Panel >>>>

## Your Participation

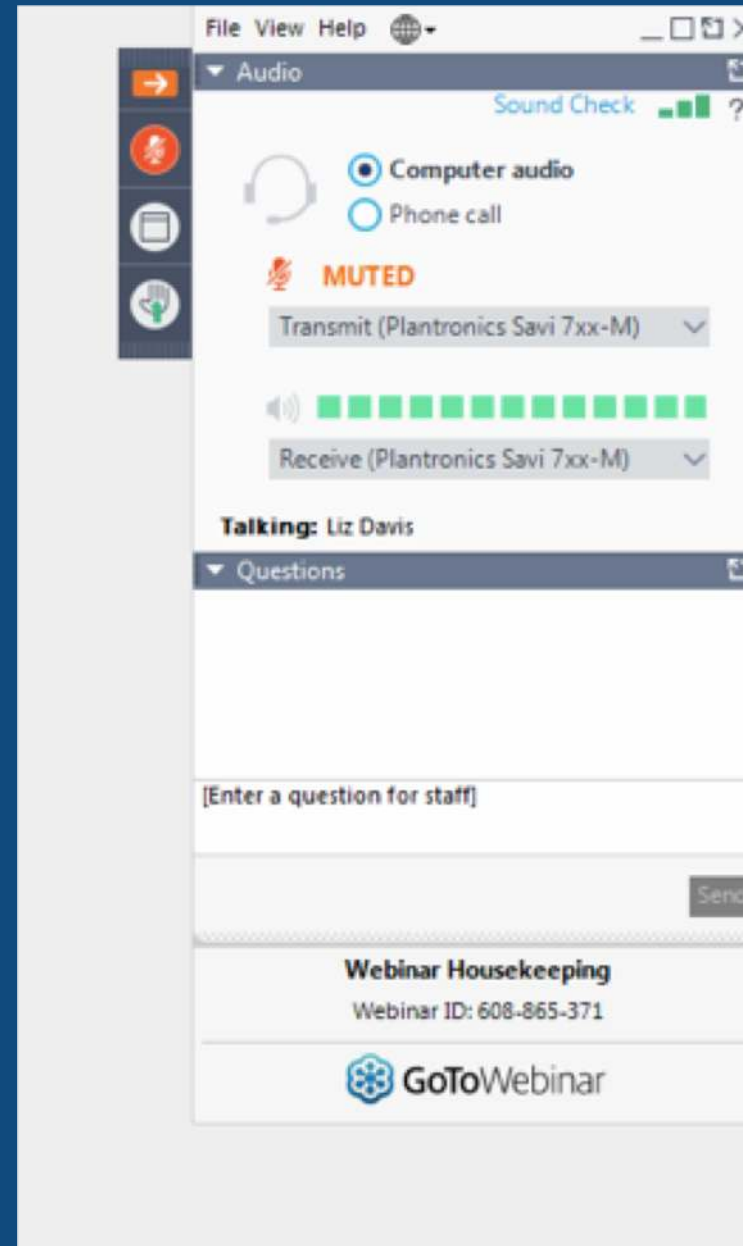
Open and close your control panel

Join audio:

- Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use VoIP
- Choose **Telephone** and dial using the information provided

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

**Note:** Today's presentation is being recorded and will be provided within 48 hours.





# All Creation Gives God Praise: An Earth Day Webinar



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Protect Our Species Campaign Manager  
Earth Day Network



Helen Rose  
Religious Outreach Coordinator  
Earth Day Network



Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant



# Earth Day 2019

**Protect**  
Our Species







Earth Day 2019

**Protect**  
Our Species

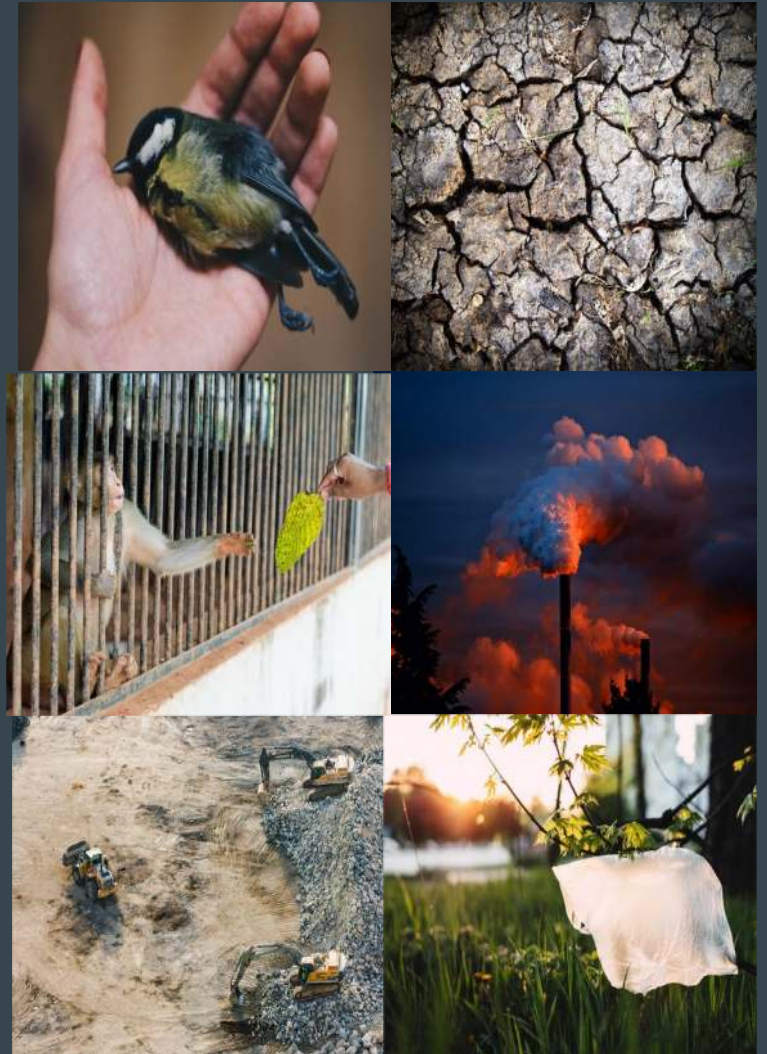


EARTH DAY NETWORK



# What are the Threats?

- Habitat destruction and degradation
- Over-exploitation
- Pollution
- Disease
- Invasions of alien species
- Global climate change





# The Sixth Mass Extinction



The number of land animals has fallen by 40% since 1970.<sup>3</sup>



In the same time period, marine animal populations have also fallen by 40%.<sup>4</sup>



40% of the world's 11,000 bird species are in decline.<sup>5</sup>



Animal populations in freshwater ecosystems have plummeted by 75% since 1970.<sup>6</sup>



Insect populations have declined by 75% in some parts of the world.<sup>7</sup>



About a quarter of the world's coral reefs have already been damaged beyond repair, and 75% of the world's coral reefs are at risk from local and global stresses.<sup>8</sup>



It is estimated that humans have impacted 83% of Earth's land surface, which has affected many ecosystems as well as the range in which specific species



Earth Day Network is asking people to join our Protect our Species campaign. Our goals are to:

- Educate and raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences of this phenomenon.
- Achieve major policy victories that protect broad groups of species as well as individual species and their habitats.
- Build and activate a global movement that embraces nature and its values.
- Encourage individual actions such as adopting plant based diet and stopping pesticide and herbicide use.

# A Message to People of Faith

“From the principle of ahimsa (non-violence) in...Buddhism and Hinduism, to the laws which relate to... (avoiding the suffering/pain of living creatures) in Judaism, we encounter the interdependence of life. The Jainist notion of ‘reverence for life’, the pronouncement in Genesis that ‘it was good’ and the Islamic belief that all species are Muslim allow us to come to a realization, or a deeper appreciation, that non-human animals have value in our religious traditions, as well as in our hearts and homes.”

*Rev. Barbara Allen*



Photo by [Vidar Nordli-Mathisen](#) on Unsplash



# What Can You Do?

## Learn

- Explore EDN's Protect Our Species Faith Leader's Toolkit to learn
  - What is happening to our species and their habitat
  - What is driving this process of extinction

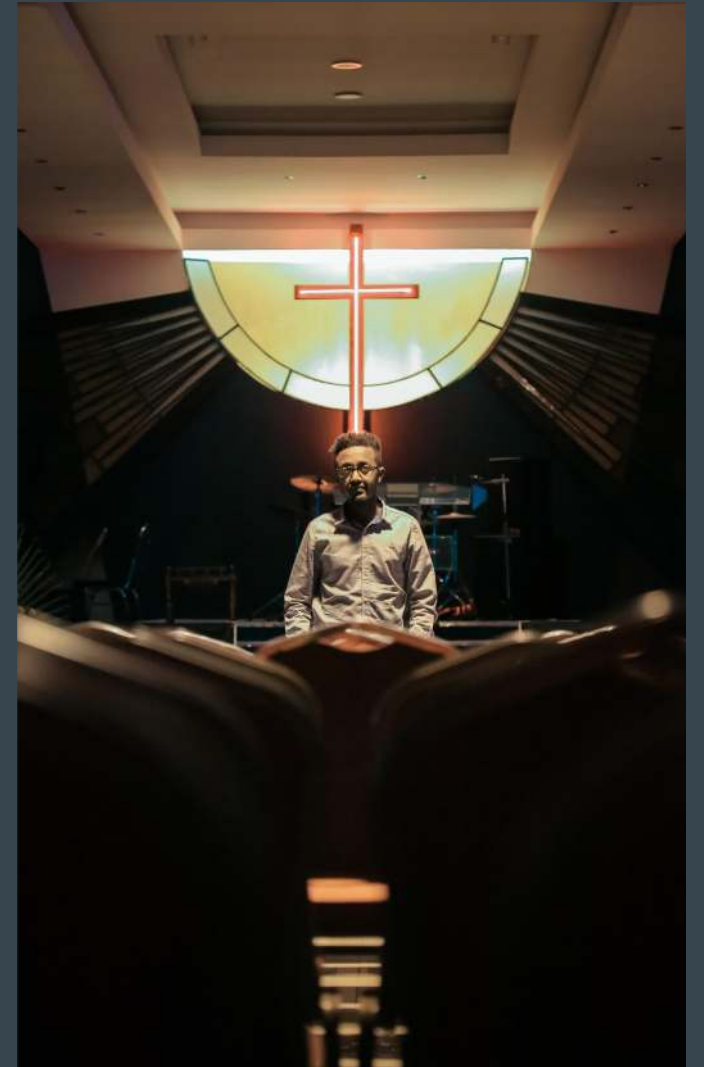
## Reflect

- Faith Statements on the Environment
  - Catholic Statements
    - Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home
    - Laudato Si' in 20 Different Languages

# Act



- Tell us how your faith community will participate in Earth Day 2019.
- Encourage faith leaders to learn, reflect, and act by incorporating issues related to biodiversity in their homilies.



# Act

## PRAYER RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

The following links to prayer resources by faith tradition are intended to help you.

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### Catholicism

[Prayers and Worship](#)

[Earth-Care Prayers](#)

[Where's an Earth prayer when you need one?](#)



Photo by [Eber Devine](#) on Unsplash



# Act

## Discussion Starters for Teens and Adults:

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### CATHOLICISM

#### Links:

- [Catholic Ecology's Data Series #3, Biodiversity Lost](#)
- [Catholic Social Teaching 101: Care for Creation](#)
- [Meet the Nuns Helping Save a Sacred Species](#)

**Activity:** Have everyone read the blog and watch the videos below. Look for correlations between faith, rapid species loss, and action.

#### Discussion Guiding Questions:

The following questions can be used to help guide the conversation:

- In "Biodiversity Lost", Dr. Raven suggests that "people are preoccupied by daily life... and don't take time to reflect on how, as a group they impact the larger world". What are some strategies we can take to become less preoccupied by daily life and make time for reflection?
- What are the connections between rapid species loss and poverty? How might that impact how we address rapid species loss in our community and greater world?
- What are concrete actions we can take today and in the future to reduce species loss in our community?

# Act

- Resources for children & youth
  - Reduce bird collisions(ages 4-6)
  - Do your part to help bees (ages 7-9)
  - Lead an invasive species clean-up (ages 10 & up)
  - Lead a wildflower garden planting (ages 12 & up)
  - Intergenerational activity, creating a healthy watershed for species



Watershed Wilma, Earth Day 2009



Photo by Erda Estremera

# Other Earth Day 2019 Ideas



- Organize a recycling drive or clean-up
- Screen an environmental film
- Hold a plastic-free vegetarian or vegan potluck
- Host a tree planting
- Plant a garden
- Make your the grounds of your faith community a pesticide free zone
- Sponsor a beach clean-up
- Ask local elected officials to host a global day of conversation on biodiversity.



# Additional Resources for the Catholic Community

- [Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home Discussion Guide](#)
- [10 Catholic Ways to Celebrate Earth Day](#)
- [Beyond a Throwaway Culture: Reduce Waste-Grow Community](#)
- [Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home](#)
- [Laudato Si' Animation for Children | CAFOD](#)



# Earth Day 2020-50th Anniversary

**A CALL TO PEOPLE OF FAITH  
LET'S MAKE HISTORY AGAIN**



EARTH DAY NETWORK

# Additional Earth Day Network Resources

- Download our [Protect Our Species Primer and Action Toolkit](#)
- Use the 2019 Earth Day banner and badge on promotional and communications materials, after signing the Earth Day 2019 Partnership Agreement
- Organize an Earth Day Event using our [Earth Day Organizers Toolkit](#)
- Host a Teach-In using our Teach-In tool kit available [here](#) to educate family, friends, co-workers or other community members about the problem of species loss and solutions
- Take part in Climate Education Week (starting Monday, April 15th) using our [Climate Education Week Toolkit](#) to educate and engage K-12 students to learn about the problem and take action to Protect Our Species
- Organize college campus events for Earth Day. Students, faculty, and staff at higher education institutions can use our [MobilizeU Toolkits](#) that provides a step by step guide to getting your campus ready for Earth Day
- Work with local governments? Local officials can engage and educate the community about protecting biodiversity and build support for new initiatives using our [Cities and Local Leaders Toolkit](#)
- Use the 2019 hashtags #EarthDay2019 and #ProtectOurSpecies and tag EDN @EarthDayNetwork to allow EDN to track your messages. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)
- [Sign-up](#) to receive updates about our petitions and other advocacy actions

# THANK YOU

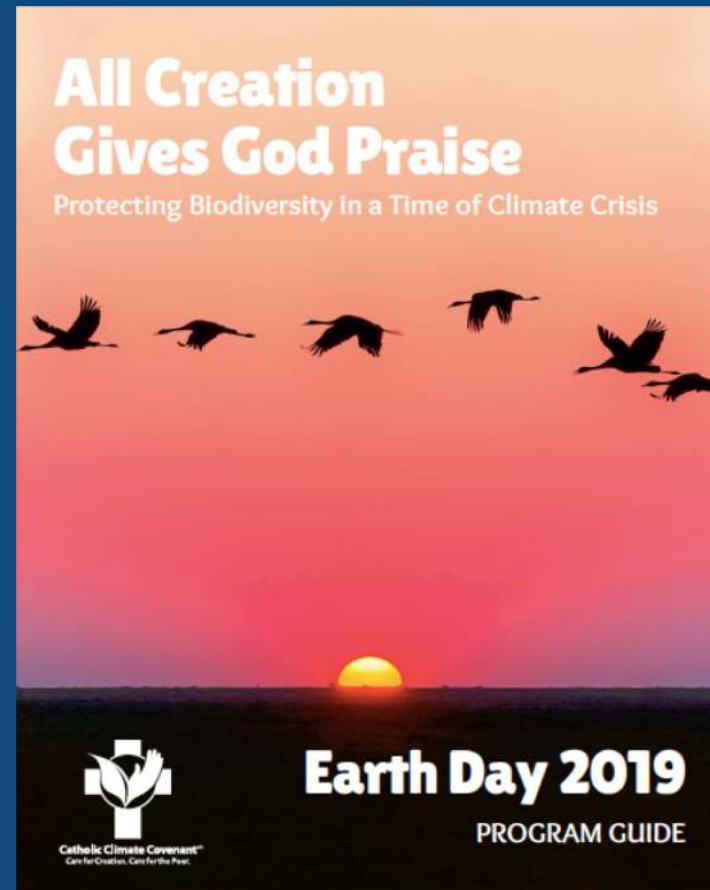
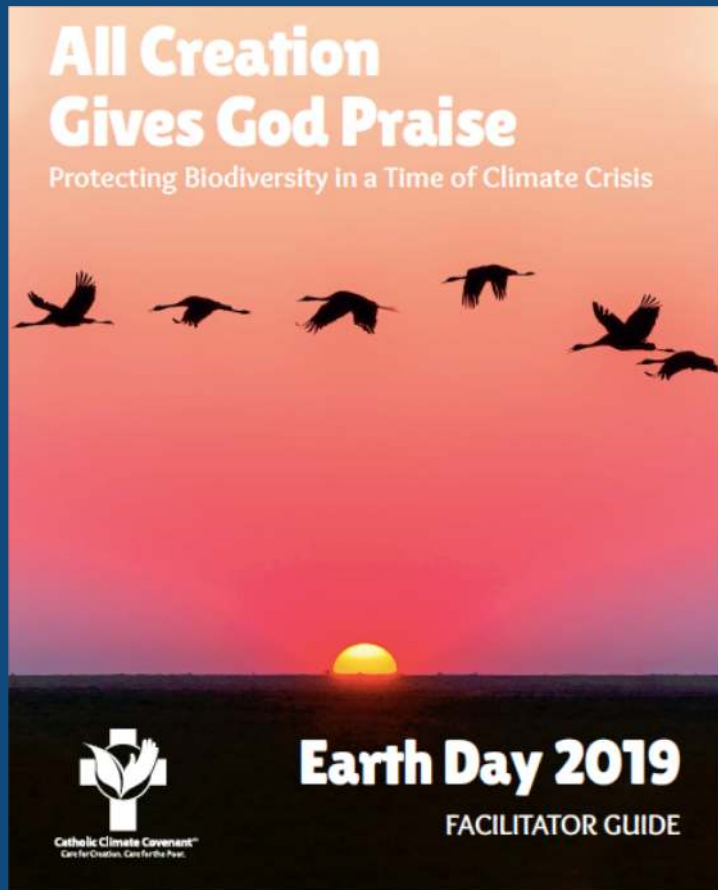
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# All Creation Gives God Praise: An Earth Day Webinar





# All Creation Gives God Praise: An Earth Day Webinar

## 2019 Earth Day Program

- One hour educational program
- Delve into the scriptural and ethical dimensions of our call to be stewards of all of God's creation
- Examines the importance of biodiversity and species loss
- Discusses how we, as Catholics, must respond.

# All Creation Gives God Praise: An Earth Day Webinar



- Prayers
- Readings
- Video
- Activities



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Activities:

- 1) [Creation Care Team](#)
- 2) [Catholic Climate Declaration](#)
- 3) [Saint Kateri Habitat Program.](#)



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Download 2019 Earth Day Program here:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/earth-day>

**Please note:** This year, Earth Day (April 22nd) falls on Easter Monday. Therefore, we invite you to celebrate Earth Day anytime during the Easter season, or on a day of your choosing..

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Questions ?



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For more information:

[info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

