**Earth Day** is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for [**environmental protection**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_protection)**.** First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

**ALL together now!** This is the moment to change it all — the church, the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time to recognize our collective responsibility and find the courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, **our livelihoods**… **together, we must Invest in Our Planet. #Climatechange**

**We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably).**It is going to take all of us. **All in**. Churches, businesses, governments, and us — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable in **partnership for the planet.**

**Celebrate Earth Day:** Register your eventat [**earthday.org/register**](http://earthday.org/register)

**TAKE ACTION:**

**Climate Literacy**: Ignite aneducation revolution to save the planet; ensure that your church and community understand human impacts on climate and the impacts of climate on human systems. https://www.climate.gov/teaching/climate

**Acts of Green** **Baby Steps:**

**Fact:** Plastic utensils used for eating on the fly are a major source of plastic pollution. So, ditch the single-use plastics and **carry a spare set of flatware** with you.

**Fact:** It’s estimated that we use 4 TRILLION plastic bags each year worldwide. Always **take recyclable bags** with you; keep them in your car; in your tote bag/purse*.*

**Prepared by Sharon Hassan**

**Environmental Stewardship Committee**

**Invest In Our Planet:**

**Climate Change**

****

**Earth Day**

**April 22, 2023**

**Environmental Stewardship Committee**

**Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder**

**International President, WH&OM Society**

**Globally Committed: AGAPE LOVE**

***~Order of Service~***

Prelude

\*Call to Worship

**Leader:** The earth is the Lord’s

**People: And all that is in it,**

**Leader:** The world,

**People: And those who live in it;**

**Leader:** For God has found it on the seas**,**

**People: And established it on the rivers.**

**All: Creator God, we praise you today for your mighty works, in all of creation, and in each of our lives.**

\*Opening Hymn “*He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*”

Scripture Reading Psalm 104:24, 31-33

Opening Prayer

Prayer Response

Litany

Offering

Introduction of Speaker

Sermonic Selection “What a Wonderful World”

Sermon

\*Closing Selection “*Mercy, Mercy, Me (The Ecology)*”

Benediction

***Environmental Stewardship Litany***

*Prayer by Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, NEED (Adapted)*

**Leader:** We pray now, acknowledging that, “the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” And that You, Lord, have given to us the assignment to cultivate and subdue the earth!

People: Forgive us for not prioritizing what You prioritize! We have placed profit and technology over the need to refresh and replenish our limited resource known as the earth. The earth, air and water are gifts that are not just for our use only but for generations yet to come, until there is a new heaven and new earth!

**Leader:** Forgive us for allowing pollution and contamination of air, land, and water to adversely affect the most vulnerable among us: the aged, the poor, those with minimal health care and limited economic options.

People: Forgive us for not revering the planet as did the Indigenous people who called upon, “Mother Earth” to provide balance, healing, and blessings to those of us who dwell therein! And forgive us for not saying more, feeling more, doing more than passively standing by.

**Leader:** We repent and are sincerely sorry for our misdoings and pledge to look upon the earth and those who impact it with the eyes of an activist, the heart of a passivist and the spirit of an idealist!

ALL: We believe that Your kingdom shall come, and Your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name we declare it done and commit ourselves. Amen!

\*Please stand, if able

*Today’s offering benefits \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you!*