

*For June 18 2008 at Ebenezer Church, Bermuda,
Connecting the Dots.....: Faith and the
Environment Session One*

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S:

*An excerpt from A Liturgy of Celebration, Confession,
Thanksgiving and Commitment*

*(Prepared by Mission in Canada for the 33rd General Council, August 1990 and
commended to congregations for their use).*

Call to Worship

One: The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world
and all that dwells therein.

All: We live in God's world, we are not alone. We share the
life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the
land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds and animals, with
creatures of every form, and with all our brothers and sisters.

One: God saw all that was made, and behold, it was very good.

Scripture Reading: from Psalm 104

Call to Confession

God's creation is being abused and violated

We as human beings often see ourselves as separate from creation,
not woven into the web of life.

The reference to having "dominion over the earth" is used to
exploit and destroy the earth.

As individuals and societies, we become dependent on a lifestyle
of limitless growth.

We are quick to blame and judge others rather than accept
responsibility for the part we play in destroying our environment

We use more than our share of the earth's resources

We are responsible for massive pollution of earth, water and sky.

We thoughtlessly drop garbage around our homes, schools,
churches, places of work and places of play.

Much of the world struggles for survival - good food, clean water, adequate homes.

We squander resources on technologies of destruction-bombs come before bread.

Prayer of Confession

All: We confess these sins to you our God, Creator of the universe. You have set before us life and death. Too often we have chosen death. We have not loved the earth as you love it.

Prayer for Grace

All: Holy and great Creator, we recognize as your people that these problems will not easily be solved. Give us the courage to truly repent and change our ways. May we genuinely ask for forgiveness from you, from the earth and from future generations. May we live this day faithfully loving your creation as you love it. May we walk together toward the future with hope.

Hymn: This is God's wondrous world

Presentation and discussion-a power point presentation by member of Wesley Church, Hamilton, Bermuda who worked for Bermuda National Trust and active in ecological concerns, originally prepared for UCW "This is God's wondrous world." Excellent connection between faith, spirituality, and action.

Act of Thanksgiving

One: We are thankful for the passion of children and youth among us who push us to recognize the urgency of the environmental crisis.

All: Thank you creator and giver of passion.

One: We are thankful for the wisdom of the aged among us who remind us of what it means to respect the earth and live in

community with one another.

All: Thank you creator and giver of wisdom.

One: We are thankful for the insights of the native brothers and sisters among us who draw on their tradition and teach us about the sacredness of all creation and how to live in kinship with it.

All: Thank you creator and giver of insight.

One: We are thankful for the inspiration of those among us who have already begun to live their lives in ways that show a caring for the earth, water and the skies.

All: Thank you creator and giver of inspiration. We thank you God for all signs of hope that keep us from despairing and point us toward new ways of living.

Commissioning

One: God said: "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt, their loud cry of complaint against their slave drivers I have heard. I know well their suffering." In the power of the Spirit go forth, seeing the affliction of the earth as God sees it, hearing creation's cry of complaint as God hears it, knowing its suffering as God knows it.

All: We commit ourselves anew to seeing the affliction of the earth, hearing its cry and knowing its suffering. We commit ourselves to learning more about the changes that are needed. We commit ourselves to embarking on the long and difficult road toward life lived in harmony with all God's creation. In covenant with God and with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we are called to action in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Benediction