

Environmental Justice

Others have said, "caring for creation is as old as Genesis and as clear as the Sermon On The Mount." We, at Saint Andrew, are a gathered people, seeking justice in every part of our lives and the life of the planet. In this call is a responsibility to care for the poor and the most vulnerable among us. The poorest are least responsible for climate change and the most affected by it. We hear and see over and over again that hurricanes, floods and exposure to toxins disproportionately affect the poorest people of color. Substandard air quality is highest in densely populated, impoverished neighborhoods. It is there that many are likely to suffer from asthma and chronic lung disease. For many months now, the CDC findings show that African Americans' mortality rate from COVID-19 is markedly higher than Caucasians.



Rhiana Gunn-Wright of the "Green New Deal, reminds us that "returning power to the marginalized is a very important part of climate action." Long before "I can't breathe," became a heart-breaking cry for Black Lives Matter, in 1987 a landmark research titled "Toxic Waste and Race" explained climate crisis as "environmental racism." Housing policies have forced people of color into areas near hazardous-waste facilities. The rich and powerful that own the land and operate the facilities, know that minority groups lack the necessary political power to stop the greedy practices.

Audre Lorde, feminist and civil rights advocate says, "there is no such thing as a single issue struggle". We are experiencing a catastrophic loss in biodiversity. Deforestation and human population expansion is placing more animals in contact with humans and diminishing wildlife protection.

As a gathered people, let's include an ever-expanding understanding of justice in environmental action. With Sister Simone Campell's prayer, let us pray.

O Great Love, stir our hearts and minds that we might live each day for a vision that is worthy of your call to honor the dignity of all of your creation. Breathe into us and our leaders a new resolve to build a national community grounded in healing and based fearlessly on truth and living out a sense of shared responsibility.

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