There are over a thousand references to the earth and caring for creation in the Bible, the message is clear: all in God's creation – nature, animals, humanity – are inextricably linked to one another. As God cares for all of creation, so too we cannot love one dimension without caring for the others. We are called to care for all that God has made.

- After God created birds, fish and animals he created humans to be his viceroy and to act “compassionately and gently” toward all forms of life. The future of our fragile, beautiful, planet home is in our hands. As God’s family, we are stewards of God’s creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate. God says, “I have set before you life and death…Choose life” (Deut. 30:19).

- “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31

- "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” Romans 8:19-21

- May God, teach us to recognize the symbiotic relationship we were designed to be a part of, teach us to honor the Sabbath and practice the value of sufficiency out of a deep love for God, our neighbor and the entire Creation, so that we may join the pastures, hills, meadows, and valleys as they shout and sing together for joy (Psalm 65:12-13).

- The account of Creation found in Genesis 2:4-25 connects humanity to creation not only in how we were created, "from the dust of the ground" (7), but by the purpose God intends humans to serve, “to till and keep” (15) God’s beautiful garden. In fact, this purpose is alluded to in verse 5 “when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth and there was no one to till the ground.” This account of creation shows that God’s Creation was intended to flourish together in a symbiotic relationship where the responsibility of humans was to see to it that Creation thrived, while the gifts of God’s Creation would allow humans to thrive. When our actions destroy God’s Creation, we jeopardize the balance of this symbiotic relationship harming not only God’s Creation, but our human brothers and sisters, and ultimately ourselves who depend on the gifts of Creation to survive.

- The passage in Exodus 23:10-13 teaches us about the Sabbath. “Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed” (Exodus 23:12). This verse makes clear not only our connection to the rest of God’s Creation but what our response to that connection should be; namely compassion and consideration. In this passage, we are told to rest not for ourselves, for our own relief and refreshment, but so that others (human and non-human) may have relief and refreshment. The commandment to honor the Sabbath applies to us today for the same reasons. Many of our activities are energy intensive and take a serious toll on all of God’s Creation. Imagine if every person of faith honored the Sabbath by intentionally trying to conserve energy just one day a week; turning off our televisions, computers and other electronic distractions, and focusing on God instead. We would go a long way in reducing our contribution to global warming pollution. In the same way, by refusing to shop till we drop on the Sabbath, we can allow many of our neighbors to experience the Sabbath more fully as well.

- At the center of Christian faith and the Bible is the Cross. Jesus is described as our peace, the One who has broken down the wall of partition. He says of his ascent to the cross, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). As if in this cosmic embrace,
Jesus would wish to enfold all the God has created, the entire universe, into unity. His supreme work is to reconcile us to God and to one another and, indeed, to reconcile us to all of God’s creation.

- Trees are beautiful – it is a biblical truth. Trees are also the source of oxygen. The Tree of Life in Genesis is aptly named. “And, the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:8-9) From the very beginning there is a relationship that continues throughout the pages of history: God, humans, and trees. Creation care is at the very core of our Christian walk. The Bible begins with a tree – The Tree of Life.

- Considering the importance of trees to us, and to God, it is not by chance that the most important event in the Bible is framed by trees. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that grows into a tree where birds can nest (Mark 4:31-32). He is the true vine and describes his followers as fruit-bearing orchards. In the end, he will stretch out his strong hands and die on a tree.

- Matthew 7:1 is particularly compelling: “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.” How often, in the all walks of life, do we judge others by a standard different from the one we use to measure our own shortcomings? When Christ’s words are applied to ourselves, do we like what we see? If we’re really concerned about pollution and the death of the world, what role do we play in it? Christ tells us to clean up our own act.

- Wisdom too is “a tree of life to those who lay hold of her” (Proverbs 3:18)