



Lent Course

Calling a Wounded Earth Home



Calling a Wounded Earth Home, a 5-week Lent course, was inspired by Green Christian's [Deep Waters](#) course. We are grateful to Rev Josh Richards of St Mary's Church, Islington, for his work on *Calling a Wounded Earth Home*, and his generosity in sharing it.

[St Mary's Islington](#) is a partner of Green Christian.

[Green Christian](#) is a national UK charity, established in 1982. We are a group of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we do what we can to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement.

We are volunteer-led and have over 1000 members. We exist for those who are timid and discouraged as much as those who are confident and keen, for individuals and for churches. We provide most of our resources free of charge.

[Borrowed Time](#) is Green Christian's climate grief and eco-anxiety project, which has resources for clergy as well as churches.



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Calling a Wounded Earth Home

Week One: Love

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

This course asks: what kind of people might we need to be to face the challenges of climate change?

Here is a space to go deeper together, and a space of contemplation that can resource meaningful action. It will be discussion-based with little input. We trust that the expertise is in the room. We will be sharing personally and so we trust that we will hold each other with respect, trusting one another with appropriate confidentiality.

2. Worship/Music—[Listen to Brother Sun \(Giving Glory!\) by The Porter's Gate](#) or [St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures](#)

3. Sharing together

Discuss the following questions:

- a. Share with those around you a particularly powerful experience with the natural world
- b. What do you think love has to do with the climate crisis?

4. The Reading—Psalm 148

5. Reflecting together

Discuss some of the following questions:

- a. How does this passage inform how we understand worship?

- b. How does it change how we relate to other parts of creation?
- c. How does it change the way we think about our grief and our anger at the climate crisis if non-human creatures are fellow worshippers?
- d. What prevents us from relating to non-human creatures as fellow worshippers?
- e. What difference might this make to me this week?

6. Gathering reflection/application

Psalms are maps to life. Just as different maps highlight different things about an area (I would see a place differently if using an Ordnance Survey Map or Google Maps or Pokemon Go), so too different Psalms highlight different dimensions to reality and help us navigate that reality in different ways. How might living by this map change how we journey through life? How can you pay attention to the Psalm 148 map this week? Perhaps you could commit to reading it every day.

7. Closing Worship—Listen to [Let Us Be Known by Our Love by Liturgical Folk](#)

8. Closing Prayer

Week Two: Truth

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Let's recap where we are on the journey. We started with love, our love for God and for creation. When we love something, we want to face up to the truth of it.

2. Worship/Music—Listen to [All Creatures Lament by The Porter's Gate](#) or [Elegy for the Arctic, Ludovico Einaudi](#)

3. Sharing together

Discuss the following questions:

- a. Share for a few minutes what you know of the scientific evidence of climate change
- b. Why is it sometimes hard to hear the truth?
- c. Why is it sometimes hard to speak the truth?

4. The reading— [Jeremiah 6:8-20](#)

5. Reflecting together

Discuss some of the following questions:

- a. What is the connection between human sin and the land in v.8?
- b. Who are the different groups this passage addresses? What are they criticised for?
- c. Who are the equivalent groups today?
- d. What about us? Can we sympathise with those that the passage criticises?
- e. Look at verse 16. What does it mean? How can we do it?

6. Gathering reflection/application

Introduce the examen. You could play a guided examen from [Prayasugo](#).

7. Closing Worship—Listen to [Illuminate the Shadows by The Porter's Gate](#)

8. Closing Prayer

Week Three: Wisdom

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Recap where we are on the journey. We started with love, our love for God and for creation. When we love something, we want to face up to the truth of it. We then must ask how we live in light of this truth? What is wisdom?

2. Worship/Music—Read Proverbs 8:22-31, then listen to [The Call of Wisdom by Will Todd](#)

3. Sharing together

Discuss the following questions:

a. Can you name a wise person you have known? What was it that made them wise? b. In different responses to the climate crisis, where do you see wisdom?

4. The reading— James 3:13-18

5. Reflecting together

Discuss some of the following questions:

- a. How is wisdom described here? Does any part of this description surprise you? b. Do you think the order in which verse 17 places the attributes matters? c. Does verse 17 describe the wise people you discussed earlier?
- d. Does verse 17 describe your response to the climate crisis?
- e. Using verse 17, how could we become more wise in our response to the climate crisis?

6. Gathering Reflection/Application

Could you use this passage in your own reflection? Which parts of this passage—which wisdom—describes you today? And what would the wisdom described here look like in our response to climate change?

7. Closing Worship—listen to [Wisdom and Grace by Bifrost Arts](#)

8. Closing Prayer

Week Four: Justice

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Recap where we are on the journey. We started with love, our love for God and for creation. When we love something, we want to face up to the truth of it. We then must ask how we live in light of this truth? What is wisdom?

Seeking to live wisely will lead us to ask questions of justice. The ways that we live together makes it easier or harder to live wisely.

2. Worship/Music — listen to [Bring in the Year of Jubilee \(Psalm 37\)](#) by The Porter's Gate or [Beauty for Brokenness by Graham Kendrick](#)

3. Sharing together

Discuss the following questions:

- a. Share a time that you have seen someone—or yourself— make a significant change? b. What makes change possible?

4. The reading— Luke 19:1-10

5. Reflecting together

Discuss some of the following questions:

- a. Who do you identify with in this story? Why?
- b. Why does Zacchaeus change? Have you experienced a transformation like this? c. What difference does Zacchaeus's transformation make to political and economic structures?

- d. What would Zacchaeus do in response to the climate crisis?
- e. How can we help others go through the journey that Zacchaeus goes through? f. What should we do when the powerful refuse to change?

6. Closing reflection

*[Be sure to summarise any practical next steps which may help your community become more **just** that have emerged]*

Many of us will be familiar with the question *What Would Jesus Do?* But when it comes to considering how we repent of sin, a more helpful question might be *What Would Zacchaeus Do?* Reflecting on how white Christians should engage with racism the theologian Jennifer Harvey writes:

Our task is to recognize that what Jesus did and said, taken seriously, means that the white Christian is instead called to identify with and imitate Zacchaeus. *WWZD?* enables us to avoid the dangers of race and power-evasion. *WWZD?* enables us to avoid the risk of reaffirming the privilege of being the central actor in the story and presuming ourselves to be doing for others. Perhaps most importantly, *WWZD?* models what humility and repentance look like — both of which begin by taking seriously one’s morally compromised identity — and provide an example of what is required to turn away from complicity.

Perhaps you could ask *WWZD?* of parts of your own life.

7. Closing Worship—listen to [The Zacchaeus Song by The Porter’s Gate](#)

8. Closing Prayer

Week Five: Hope

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Recap where we are on the journey. We started with love, our love for God and for creation. When we love something, we want to face up to the truth of it. We then must ask how we live in light of this truth? What is wisdom?

Seeking to live wisely will lead us to ask questions of justice, the ways that the way we live together makes it easier or harder to live wisely. Asking questions of justice—facing up to the complexity and difficulty of the world—leads us to consider what hope we have for this world, and for eternity, and to make plans for our journey on.

We may also wish to consider different kinds of hope – from breezy optimism, or uncritical trust in untested solutions or strategies, to the hope which is rooted in Christ’s Gospel of love, justice, wisdom and truth.

2. Worship/Music — Read Revelation 21:1-7 and then listen to [Vertical Worship, New Jerusalem](#) or [And I saw a new Heaven by Edgar Bainton](#)

3. Sharing together—

- a. How hopeful are you? Responses in the group may differ widely. Encourage everyone to respond honestly and listen without judgement. Suggest ways for those differences to be heard, for instance by identifying with a colour of the rainbow, an animal or on a scale of 1 to 10. Then reflect together on the range of responses in the room.
- b. What kinds of hope are there? Is hope different from optimism?

4. The reading— Romans 5:1-11

5. Reflecting together

- a. What is the hope in this passage?
- b. Look at vv.3-4, what do you think about the order?
- c. How might this help us in our response to the climate crisis?

d. In what way does the hope of Christianity differ from other kinds of hope? e. As we go forward from this course, what part might hope play in the way we will choose to live and act?

6. Resolutions and intercessions

In a time of silence allow each member to say how they see themselves going forward from this course. Allow time to pray together for the climate crisis, for one another and any next steps you might want to take as a group.

7. Closing Worship—[Keep watch and pray by The Porter's Gate](#) or [Be Still my Soul \(tune: Finlandia\)](#)

8. Closing Prayer

Please let us know how your group found the course so that we can improve it for the future. Visit this [feedback form](#) and leave your reflections.