

# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND CREATION CARE MINISTRY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Montauk Point, Suffolk County

## Welcome to the Creation Care Ministry Newsletter

*DARREN J. GLENN, EDITOR*

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Creation Care Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, where we offer updates on the sacred work that our Diocese-wide organizing team and our parish-based Green teams have been doing to promote environmental stewardship and environmental justice in our communities.

In this inaugural issue of our newsletter, our team is excited to introduce to the members of our diocese who we are, what we have been doing, and the purpose driving our continued organizing efforts.

We are also providing an invitation to all of our readers to get involved with our ministry as we expand the scope of the work that we aim to lead across Long Island.

Thank you for taking the time to read this first issue and for your consideration of further involvement.

# Our Shared Purpose:

At the 2020 Diocesan Convention, the Creation Care Community submitted a resolution in which it called for a commitment to "the work of seeking right relationship with the created things of our environment through acts of repentance, justice-seeking, healing, activism, education, or witness." The Creation Care Community team has continued to seek ways to partner with parishes and organizations across Long Island and to advocate and give support to the work being done for the environment, as well as racial and economic justice.

## CREATION CARE MINISTRY, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"We, the Creation Care Community in the Diocese of Long Island, are equipping individuals, parishes, and diocesan organizations to respond to God's call to ecojustice, which we take to encompass the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and harms (environmental justice) and also right relationship with non-human Creation. Ecojustice as we understand it is therefore inseparable from racial and economic justice. We are committed to collaborative teamwork, to equal partnership of clergy and laity, and to reflecting and honoring the diversity of our diocese in our actions and in our leadership.

We are answering the call to ecojustice by

- Building a network of parish-based green teams across our diocese
- Understanding our carbon footprint and working to become a carbon-neutral diocese by 2035
- Working to align diocesan financial investments with the goals of ecojustice
- Taking into account the latest science on the environment and the drivers of climate change in our actions
- Entering into partnerships with other organizations in the broader movement for ecojustice

This list is neither exhaustive nor restrictive. We expect that our parish-based teams will find new ways to pursue ecojustice as they discern their own calls to this work, in their own local contexts."



Sunken Meadow  
State Park,  
Suffolk County,  
Long Island



## Introducing our Creation Care Ministry Team:

REV. MARY BETH MILLS-CURRAN  
Curate, St. John's Episcopal Church,  
Cold Spring Harbor

"As followers of Jesus, our goal is to know, love, and serve God. I believe that the whole of Creation shares that longing, and wishes to collaborate in the work of the restoration of the world. Work to preserve our environment is care for both our fellow humans, but also for the rest of God's created world."



REV. MATTHEW MOORE  
Missioner for Environmental Justice  
Co-Chair, Creation Care Community  
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

"I feel called to this work because I cannot separate love of God, love of neighbor (especially the poor), and love of the earth."



MOTHER MARIE TATRO  
Vicar for Community Justice, EDLI  
St. Ann's and the Holy Trinity

"I am concerned about rising sea levels and access to fresh drinking water, and their impact on communities here in our diocese and around the world. Seeing that these conditions are already creating climate refugees forced to flee now unliveable regions, I will advocate on both local and national levels to do what I can to mitigate the harm to God's children and all of God's creatures.



REV. CANON EDDIE ALLEYNE  
Sub Dean and Canon for Cathedral Life  
Cathedral of the Incarnation

"...because of human impacts on the environment, species are becoming extinct at a much higher rate than normal. We here at our Cathedral have recently 'hived' an Apiary (20,000 bees) on our grounds. We pray that others will find tangible, humane and practical ways to SAVE OUR PLANET."



JENNIFER WOODLEY  
Parishioner and Vestry Member  
The Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew

I am most concerned with local environmental injustices including poor sanitation and less than desirable water quality. On the whole I'd like to advocate for Black and Brown communities whose environmental concerns have been ignored resulting in poor quality of life.

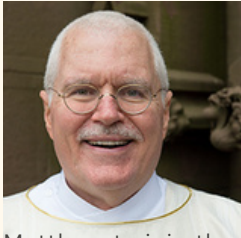


REV. MAXINE BARNETT  
"Rector, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Baldwin

I believe that being faithful stewards of God's creation is our responsibility, individually and communally, and that whenever we care for the Earth's creatures and resources, we participate in the work of justice and love."



# Rev. Matthew Moore: Missioner of Environmental Justice



Born and raised in Southern California, Father Matthew studied at Harvard and the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his husband Tom. After college, these two Native Californians moved to Chicago, where they shivered for eighteen years, and Father Matthew completed his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

After teaching stints at UIC and Northwestern, the family moved to Brooklyn for Father Matthew to join the faculty of Brooklyn College, where he has taught ever since. He has also served as chairperson of the Philosophy Department, Interim Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Associate Provost. He is now happily back in the classroom and intends to stay there. Ordained to the priesthood in 2017, Father Matthew served as Assisting Priest at St. John's (Park Slope) until his appointment as Missioner for Environmental Justice in 2021. He and Tom will celebrate 42 years of marriage later this year.



**-WHAT IS A MISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?-**  
As the first Missioner for Environmental Justice for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, Rev. Moore works with the Creation Care Community and the Vicar for Community Justice Ministry to integrate ecojustice into the ministry of our diocese, and to build partnerships with organizations outside the diocese engaged in this work.

**-SCHEDULE A VISIT-**  
Matthew is available to visit congregations to preach on ecojustice and to offer a presentation of the environmental crisis, and opportunities for our people to help address it. He can also offer any other support parishes need as they enter into this work.

Please send him an email to set up a parish visit from Matthew and foster greater environmental justice efforts in your church community. [MMOORE@DIOCESELI.ORG](mailto:MMOORE@DIOCESELI.ORG)

Please explore the full announcement of Rev. Matthew Moore's appointment as Minister of Environmental Justice on the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island website at the following link:

<https://www.dioceseli.org/media/diocesan-news/matthew-moore-named-missioner-for-environmental-justice>

## A Prayer for Earth Day, April 22nd 2022

**Everlasting God, whose Spirit broods everlastingly over the lands and the waters, and endows them with form and color: give us, we pray, the mind and heart to rejoice in the majesty of creation. Teach us to be responsible stewards of this world and to seek the common good, that through your blessing all may flourish, and creation sing your praise in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*- The Rt. Rev. Robert Atwell*



**Milburn Creek, Baldwin, NY**

*Creation Care Ministry Team, (cont'd)*

RITA GRIFFITH

Parishioner, Church of the Transfiguration of Freeport

I am a long-time member of the Church of the Transfiguration of Freeport, and a retired United Nations staffer. Originally from Jamaica, I see the threats of climate change especially on sea levels as immediate, not distant. I am keenly interested in tree planting and reforestation.



Fire Island, Suffolk County, Long Island

REV. MARK GENSZLER

Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church Cobble Hill, Brooklyn

I am interested in ecological engagement at the intersection of theology, liturgy, community, and justice, and particularly the sorts of metaphor/translation necessary for contemporary Christians to understand their ecological and cosmological roles as creatures of God in a shared habitat.



The Narrows, New York Harbor, Brooklyn

REV. AJUNG SOJWAL

Rector, St. George's Church, Hempstead

Creation care for me is not just about addressing the devastating signs of global warming around us, it is also a deeply theological issue. My area of interest at the moment in environmental care is elimination of single use plastic and clean-up of plastic waste especially from our water bodies.



DARREN J. GLENN

Parishioner, St. Ann's and the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn

"All of nature, people included, is sacred. I think of myself as an intersectional environmentalist, so I'm interested in addressing the impact of ecological crises on vulnerable communities, especially in the Caribbean, as well as wildlife conservation, addressing plastic pollution, and making sustainable practices accessible for everybody."



## In Observance of Rogationtide:

WRITTEN BY RITA GRIFFITH

Have you ever heard of Rogation Sunday, Rogation Days or Rogationtide?

This year we are hoping that members in parishes and missions in the Diocese of Long Island will think about celebrating the ancient Christian festival of Rogation. Rogation Sunday falls this year on May 22, the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

This is how the Episcopal Church defines Rogation Days:

"Traditionally, these are the three days before Ascension Day on which the litany is sung (or recited) in procession as an act of intercession. They originated in Vienne, France, in the fifth century when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster. In England they were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar "beat the bounds" of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States they have been associated with rural life and with agriculture and fishing. The propers in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 207-208, 258-259, 930) have widened their scope to include commerce and industry and the stewardship of creation. The BCP also permits their celebration at other times to accommodate different regional growing seasons. The Book of Occasional Services contains material for a Rogation procession, including petitions to be added to the Great Litany and the prayers of the people. The term is from the Latin rogatio, "asking."

Maybe you can dedicate a plot of your ground – or even a few flowerpots – to planting vegetables, herbs, or flowers to share with your community. It would be a great way to get our children involved in getting their hands dirty – which we know they love – and helping them to see God's goodness reflected in the abundance of the earth. Adults can share their knowledge of planting and gardening. Then get your rector or priest-in-charge to go out on Rogation Sunday to ask God's blessing on your endeavors and remind us all that all we have comes from God.

Some resources for Rogation Sunday:

Green Christians (UK)

Diocese of Chichester (UK) – 2020, but can easily be modified for 2022

Here's what one Episcopal Church plans to do this year for Rogation

Please be sure to let us know what you plan to do, and send us pictures when you have done it.