

Creation Care Newsletter, May 2017

- New research shows that the rate of sea level rise has nearly tripled since 1990, in part because ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are melting. That's incredible. Scientists speak with increasing alarm about the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions. On Saturday, April 29, more than 200,000 people marched in Washington, D.C. (with thousands more marching in cities around the country) to express their intention to fight for a just and thriving world. Climate change is not a Republican or Democrat issue – it is a human, moral, and deeply existential issue (as one placard in D.C. read: *No Sides on Climate*). The sermon I preached in D.C. on the day after the climate march was entitled, "[March for jobs, justice, and climate: Were not our hearts burning within us?](#)" A couple of weeks later I preached in Amherst on "[Secular or Spirit-led Activism?](#)"
- Do you need some inspiration and uplift, a place to pray for the Earth, and/or an opportunity to gather with people of many faiths to renew our hope and resolve? Please join us in a big, public, interfaith prayer service that will be held at 2:00 p.m. on June 11, beside Congregation B'nai Israel (253 Prospect Street, Northampton). Held outdoors under a big tent, rain or shine, "**Prayers for the Planet: Reverence and Resistance**" will feature two excellent guest speakers, a Gospel choir, singing, prayers, and leaders and representatives from many faiths, including our own Bishop Doug Fisher. Free childcare will be provided. For details, check out our [Facebook page](#) or our new [Website](#). Our keynote preacher is Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Minister for Ecological Justice at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Boston, with additional reflections offered by Quaker climate activist, Jay O'Hara. Their presence alone makes this event worth attending.

I wrote an article for the Daily Hampshire Gazette on why the service will focus on reverence and resistance: "[Earth Matters: Reverence, resistance, and the climate crisis](#)"

- Another extraordinary opportunity: spend a week at Star Island, NH, at a conference that will look at climate change "in a positive, interesting, and meaningful light." Featuring climate activist Tim DeChristopher (whose story of civil disobedience is told in the documentary [Bidder 70](#)), [Natural History Week](#) will be held June 17-24, 2017.
- Please be in touch (mbj@revivingcreation.org) if you'd like me to preach, speak, or lead a retreat in your parish. Visit [RevivingCreation.org](#) for blog posts, sermons, articles, and more.

-- Faithfully yours, (The Rev.) Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care

