

**HOPE REMAINS:**  
**A CREATION CARE FAITH STUDY**  
*The World needs the Church to care for all creation.*  
**(LEADER'S EDITION)**

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## **OVERVIEW:**

### SESSION MOVEMENTS:

#### \*One Hour and 15 Minute Sessions

- Welcome (3min)
- Prayer (2min)
- Creating Sacred Space (3min)
- A Moment to Learn (15 min)
- A Moment to Share and Explore (45 min)
- Looking Ahead (5min)
- Prayer (2min)

### SESSION MOVEMENTS:

- 1. A Call to Build the Foundation: Why?**  
**What is a Theology of Hope and Why we are Called to Care (baptismal cov.)**  
**(hope vs. optimism)**
- 2. A Call to Mourn: What is our reality and *who are we* in that reality?**  
**(Communal Guilt/Mourning and moving**  
**towards Recovering Hope)**
- 3. A Call to Discipleship: And Who is My Neighbor?**  
**Creaturely Neighbors, Humanly Neighbors,**  
**(Hope in the unmet faces and for the future)**
- 4. A Call to Witness: Where do We Go From Here?**  
**Earth as a Sacrament**  
**(Hope embodied)**

***Session 1: A Call to Build the Foundation: What is a Theology of Hope and Why we are Called to Care***

**What is a Theology of Hope and Why we are Called to Care (baptismal cov.)**

In this session, we will start framing the building blocks of our time together. We will explore what a theology of hope is and why we are called to care in this world. Together we will look at the ELCA's baptismal covenant and the ELCA's Social Statement on Creation Care.

- Welcome (3min)
- Prayer (2min)
- Creating Sacred Space (3min)
- A Moment to Learn (15 min)
  - opening question: What brought you to this study?
  - A theology of hope, [baptismal](#) teaching
- A Moment to Share and Explore (45 min)
  - scripture and Qs
- Looking Ahead (5min)
- Prayer (2min)

## ***Session 2: A Call to Mourn: Who are we right now? Communal Guilt and Mourning***

### **(Communal Guilt and Mourning; moving towards Recovering Hope)**

Our goal today: How do we choose life over death?

In this session, we will seek to understand why you felt powerless in the face of climate change.

We will practice mourning and allow ourselves to take place in the world's healing.

### **Overview**

- Welcome (3min)
- Prayer (2min)
- Creating Sacred Space (3min)
- A Moment to Learn (15 min)
- A Moment to Share and Explore (45 min)
  - Jim Antal's exercise p.42-46 (grief exercise)
  - read John 11:28-44
- Looking Ahead (5min)
- Prayer (2min)

### **Session 3- *A Call to Discipleship: And Who is My Neighbor?***

#### **Creaturely Neighbors, Humanly Neighbors,**

#### **(Hope in the unmet faces and for the future)**

In this session, we will be focusing on compassion over convenience. As we explore the impact of climate change on our bodies, it is sometimes easy to ignore those in need. Our focus is to explore how compassion rules our heart and direct our body to do good.

#### **Overview statement:**

- Welcome (3min)
- Creating Sacred Space (3min)
- A Moment to Learn (15 min)
  - existence exercise read with Genesis 1 Creation story
  - Visioning Exercise
- A Moment to Share and Explore (45 min)
  - The Good Samaritan: Luke 10-25:37
- Looking Ahead (5min)
- Prayer (2min)

## **Session 4- *A Call to Witness: Where do We Go From Here?* Earth as a Sacrament**

### **ELCA advocacy, Earth Charter, LRC, etc. (Hope embodied)**

In this session, we will wrap up our time together. We will go back to our baptismal covenant and explore our next steps together.

#### **Overview statement:**

- Welcome (3min)
- Prayer (2min)
- Creating Sacred Space (3min)
- A Moment to Learn (15 min)
- A Moment to Share and Explore (45 min)
  - Ecclesiastes 3:16-22
- Closing

In the past month, we have walked through our baptismal covenant and started to scratch the surface of why we are called to care for creation. We have created from a commonplace and have witnessed scriptures, our Lutheran heritage, and our faith today. We have mourned, and we have hoped. The work done in these past weeks may have seemed small or obsolete, yet they are steps forward together, envisioning a better future in love and truth. Our God is the Creator, the one who sparked forth creation out of nothingness. Who held hope in their eyes for a world that flourished, a world of love and peace. Time and time again, humans have broken that vision, and yet God's love and hope remain.

Read Antal's final paragraph on Page 169.

So may we go forth from this place, knowing that we are ordinary people called to extraordinary acts of love. That we are blessed and Beloved and called to be a blessing to all of God's Creation. May we be delighted day by day and know that God is good.

Amen

- Prayer (2min)

**Hey, Leaders!**

**If you are interested in using this project and have questions, please email me at**

**[Kines@ses.plts.edu](mailto:Kines@ses.plts.edu)**

**(It is anticipated to have a revised version in the future; please email me and check in! :) )**

**Three resources to read:**

**Jim Antal, *Climate Church, Climate World***

**Joanna Macy, *Coming Back to Life: The Updated Guide to the Work that Reconnects***

**Christine Valters Paintners, *Earth as the Original Monastery***

***Our goal for this study is to empower our congregations. To help our community to think beyond “me and my church” to how we are all interconnected in God’s Kin-dom.***

## Acknowledgments:

Before we can even get into this study about community building, I must make space and acknowledge the people who helped this project come to fruition.

First and foremost, for Dr. Adam Pryor, who helped me rediscover my faith and allowed me to have a safe space to ask theological questions. As an undergraduate, Adam was my professor and has walked with me in my journey towards ordination, often offering feedback and critique. He helped bring me back to envisioning faith through playful imagination. Who often pushed me to think more deeply and profoundly, even on days I did not want to be moved, and for that, I am a far better person and theologian.

For Dr. Armint Fox, who asked the question of why and asked the very question that fueled this project.

For Margarete Ouji, and Wylie Cook. Both have listened to my insane ramblings and sporadic thoughts throughout this project. I am thankful for both of their friendships, affirmations, honest feedback, and both walking with me through this journey.

For my mom, Amy. Who has been my biggest fan since day one! She has taught me more about restorative justice and how to embody love in a broken world. Thank you, momma, for all the wandering you have done with me and for never quitting on me in this journey and even carrying me when I was too tired to walk.

And finally, for Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, who has constantly taken a chance on this young seminarian. I do not fully believe she understands the profound impact she has had on my faith journey. Dr. Moe-Lobeda has been my academic advisor and constantly encouraged me to be better and express my thoughts. She has provided me with opportunities to step up as a climate leader, supported me through this project, and inspired me. Without her help over the past three years, I would not be prepared to lead the church and consider myself a serious leader, and this project would not exist.

Many thanks,  
Kaylie.

## Appendix

### **Resources**

#### **Books:**

Jim Antal, *Climate Church, Climate World*

Joanna Macy, *Coming Back to Life: The Updated Guide to the Work that Reconnects*

Christine Valters Paintners, *Earth as the Original Monastery*

#### **Websites:**

<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>

#### **Videos:**

Katherine Hayhoe: Global Weirding

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi6RkdaEggRVKi3AzidF4ow>

Katherine Hayhoe -TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine\\_hayhoe\\_the\\_most\\_important\\_thing\\_you\\_can\\_do\\_to\\_fight\\_climate\\_change\\_talk\\_about\\_it?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_hayhoe_the_most_important_thing_you_can_do_to_fight_climate_change_talk_about_it?language=en)

ELCA/Eco America Blessed Tomorrow

[https://elca.org/environment?\\_ga=2.226168922.13792213.1552152909-951132900.1549142867](https://elca.org/environment?_ga=2.226168922.13792213.1552152909-951132900.1549142867)

### **Creating Sacred Space**

Any activity can be used to create sacred space. This is a practice to help welcome your group together and transition into an intentional exploration space.

- Candle lighting
- Land acknowledgment
- Prayer
- Silence
- Body stretching
- Ice breaker games to help form community

## Bibliography

- Antal, Jim. *Climate Church, Climate World*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2018.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*. Eerdmans, 2014.
- Macy, Joanna, and Molly Brown. *The Updated Guide to the Work that Reconnects: Coming Back to Life*. New Society Publisher, 2014.
- Paintner, Christine Valters. *Earth Our Original Monastery*. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2020.
- Solnit, Rebecca. *Hope in the Dark*. Haymarket Books, 2016.