

Answering Earth's Call: An Interfaith Forum on Climate Justice

MANY FAITHS



ONE PLANET

Sponsored by the
San Diego Coalition to Preserve Our Common Home

St. Paul's Cathedral

September 24, 2015 - 7:00 pm

Program

Prelude/Processional Song: *Put a Little Love in Your Heart/By Our Love*
St. James Youth Music Ministry; Anne Marie Oldham, Director

Welcome by MCs (*sit*): Rabbi Laurie Coskey, Executive Director, Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice; Masada Disenhouse, Co-Founder, SanDiego350 (MCs)

Welcome: The Very Rev. Penny Bridges, St. Paul's Cathedral

Procession of Clergy (*stand and sing, words are on back of program*)

Opening Invocation: Rev. Jeanette Ham, Associate Pastor, Foothills United Methodist Church

Climate Justice Overview and Purpose of Forum (MCs) (*sit*)

Social Media Moment

Post a photo to Facebook/Twitter/Instagram. Samples: "I stand for #ClimateJustice", "My faith inspires me to #ActOnClimate", "Grateful to be surrounded by #Faiths4Climate".

Statement of the San Diego Coalition to Preserve Our Common Home

Rev. Sadie Cullumber, Pacific Beach Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Jennifer Chanin, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Rev. Iona Dickinson, University City United Church (UCUC), Sr. Maureen Brown, St. Thomas More Catholic Church.
Commitment to San Diego Coalition Goals (*stand*): All

Panel Speakers - Faith and Community Leaders (*sit*)

Kent Peters, Director, Office for Social Ministry, Roman Catholic Diocese of SD
Nana Firman, Fellow, Green Faith; Islamic Center of San Diego
Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Professor, Theology and Religious Studies, USD
Rabbi Shai Cherry, Director, Shaar Hamayim, A Jewish Learning Center
Rev. J. Lee Hill Jr., Sr. Pastor, Christian Fellowship Congregational
Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, Minister, Palomar Unitarian Universalist
Jim Miller, Vice President/Community Outreach AFT Local 1931
Maria Concepcion "Conchita" Villanueva, Organizer, Environmental Health Coalition
Itzel Osmara Martinez, Student of Ethnic Studies at Mesa and City Colleges
Eddie Junsay, Volunteer, SanDiego350

Universal Body Prayer (*stand*): Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Group Photo (*stand*): MCs

Next Steps: From Moral Necessity to Action (*sit*)

Our Coalition, hot campaigns, and actions each of us can take. Terry Bunting, California Nurses Association, and Rev. Jeanette Ham, Foothills United Methodist Church

A Prayer for Our Earth (*words on back of program*)

Father Mike Ratajczak, Pastor, St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Closing Song (*stand*): *I'll Make It*

St. Stephen's Youth/Young Adult Choir; Laura Smith, Director

San Diego Coalition Climate Justice Statement

Earth, our common home, is suffering because many of us are estranged from creation. We can no longer live as if we are separate isolated beings, ignoring our interdependence within the living system upon which we depend, to which we are responsible. All of the world's religions and ethical systems recognize that we are part of creation – inextricably bound up with earth and one another. All of the world's religions call us to care for creation.

The stakes are high and the future of the world's children and the diversity of all life depends on whether we can muster the courage to act in ways that challenge economic and political business as usual. Even as more and more of us recognize the clear scientific evidence of this threat to the natural world, including other species and human beings, it is not enough just to talk about it. This is a moral call to love in action. Those of us who believe in the possibility of a beautiful, just and sustainable future, and value our interdependence, must seek to match our creeds with our deeds.

We also accept Pope Francis's challenge to our "throwaway culture" and we have come to see that the climate crisis and our historic level of inequality are interrelated. Saving what we can of our common home requires a movement that unites economic and environmental justice and offers both a strong moral case for bold environmental action and a future that doesn't further deepen already historic levels of economic inequality where the interests of the affluent are protected while leaving the poor behind. This means abandoning market fundamentalism, awakening our moral imagination and reimagining a more equitable future before the drift toward ever-more destructive outcomes becomes inevitable.

We the undersigned recognize the great threat facing our planet due to climate change and resource depletion. We also recognize this great opportunity to awaken within humanity the sensibilities that will allow us to live from our deep interconnectedness with earth and all beings. We call upon all of our brothers and sisters to do all they can on a personal, institutional, political, and economic level to challenge themselves and others to answer the call to build a sustainable future.

We commit to change our personal behavior and ask our affiliated institutions, national and international leaders to:

1. Limit greenhouse gases and drastically reduce our carbon footprint by all means, including divesting from fossil fuels, investing in clean energy sources and making sustainable, humane food choices.
2. Change our economic system from being solely profit driven to one that is more ethically sensitive to environmental protection and the equality of all nations and individuals.
3. Take concrete measures to lower over-production and over-consumption that is exhausting the non-replaceable natural resources.
4. Restrict and control chemical run-offs and pollution that contaminate our rivers, oceans, soil and air supply.
5. Raise awareness that we are one world family, sharing the limited resources of our common home striving to live together with dignity and in peace.

Amen (*sung*)

Sing with us!

By Our Love

Brothers, let us come together, walking in the Spirit, there's much to be done. We will come reaching, out from our comforts and they will know us by our love. Sisters, we were made for kindness, we can pierce the darkness as He shines through us. We will come reaching with a song of healing and they will know us by our love. **The time is now, come church arise. Love with His hands, see with His eyes. Bind it around you, let it never leave you. And they will know us by our love.** Children you are hope for justice, stand firm in the Truth now set your hearts above. You will be reaching, long after we're gone. And they will know you by your love. © 2009 Christy Nockels Publishing Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

A Prayer for the Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. **Amen.** From Pope Francis, *Encyclical Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*

<http://sdclimatejustice.org/>

San Diego Coalition to Preserve our Common Home

The San Diego Coalition to Preserve our Common Home includes many faith communities and leaders, environmental, social justice, labor and other community organizations, and individuals throughout San Diego County, and is growing in members every day. Our name was inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

Coalition members include:

Faith

Christian Fellowship Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
First United Methodist Church of San Diego
Foothills United Methodist Church
Islamic Center of San Diego
Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Peace and Justice Ministry
Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego
SD County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
San Diego Insight Meditation
Seaside Center for Spiritual Living
St. James and St. Leo Parish
St. Paul's Cathedral
St. Stephen's Cathedral, Church of God in Christ

Social and Economic Justice

Center on Policy Initiatives
NAACP - San Diego Branch
San Diego Organizing Project

Environment / Climate

Bike San Diego
Citizens Climate Lobby
Cleveland National Forest Foundation
Climate Action Campaign
Environmental Health Coalition
Preserve Wild Santee
SanDiego350
UCSD Student Sustainability Collective

Labor

American Federation of Teachers, Guild 1931
California Nurses Assoc. / National Nurses United
Interfaith Center for Worker Justice
San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council
Environmental Caucus
University Professional and Technical Employees

Other Community

Green Party of San Diego County
Kuya Ate Mentorship Program (KAMP)
Peace Resource Center of San Diego
Women Occupy San Diego