



Religious Teachings on Climate Justice

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Why organize from a faith perspective?

- Over 80 % of the world are people of faith!
- We look to our spiritual and religious teachings for guidance on how to live our lives.
- All of our faith traditions have texts, teachings, and prayers that orient us towards taking care of each other, the planet, and promoting peace, harmony, balance, justice, and compassion

What are the teachings and spiritual resources that you bring to this work?

Christian Teachings

Jesus said to him: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind. ... And the second is like to this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments dependeth the whole law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 35-40).

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves (Romans 8:22-23)

1. For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
2. [Chorus]
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.
3. 2. For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon, and stars of light,
4. 3. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
“For the Beauty of the Earth” (song)

Islamic Teachings

In *Surah 'Ali Imran*: “And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth; and Allah is All-Powerful. Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding.” (Qur’an 3:189-190)

In *Surah An-Nisa*: “Worship Allah and associate none with Him; and be kind to parents, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion by your side, the travelers, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.” (Qur’an 4:36)



Hindu Teachings

“This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.” (Mahabharata 5,1517)

Ahimsa (nonviolence) is the dharma. It is the deepest purification and the highest truth from which all dharma proceeds. (Mahabharata)

Dharma exists for the general welfare of all living beings; hence, that by which the welfare of all living beings is sustained, that for sure is dharma. (Mahabharata)

Jewish Teachings

24:1 A Psalm of David. The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

The phrase *tikkun olam* is understood to mean “repairing the world” and has become synonymous with social action and social justice activities.

Bereishit 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.



Buddhist Teachings

Even as a mother protects with her life
Her child, her only child,
So with a boundless heart
Should one cherish all living beings (...)
- Metta Sutta, "Loving-Kindness"

"Aware of the suffering caused by the destruction of life, I undertake to cultivate compassion and learn ways to protect the lives of people, animals, plants, and minerals. I am determined not to kill, not to let others kill, and not to condone any act of killing in the world, in my thinking, and in my way of life."

(Thich Nhat Hanh's translation of the First Precept, from *For a Future to Be Possible*)

The Power of People of Faith



What is the potential of people of faith to address the climate crisis?

What is the power we have as people of faith to change the course of history at this moment?