

THE PRAIRIE PAGE

Prairie Centre for
Christian Education

CALL FOR PRESENTERS!

As we plan the **PCCE 2024 Teachers' Convention**, we are looking for workshop leaders.

1. **PCCE People:** If you would like to be considered to lead a workshop, please [complete this short form](#) by May 3. Lots of you are doing great things in your classroom/school and your colleagues in other schools would benefit from your experience and expertise! Sign up alone or team up with a partner.
2. **External Presenters:** If you know of someone in the southern Alberta area who would be a good workshop leader, please [complete this form](#) by May 3. Those of you from the area, think about the good workshops/ PD sessions you've attended recently, and pass those names along.

LIVING

While yesterday was officially "Earth Day," the themes noted below are worthwhile to consider all year long.

Here are three important biblical themes for Christians to reflect upon for Earth Day:

1. *"The whole earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1).*

We are born into a wondrous world in which all of our needs are provided for by the hand of a generous and loving God. And not just our "needs" – if God were only interested in needs, we would have a far more boring world.

Consider the sheer variety of cheeses and chocolates, or the delight of a child who tastes ice cream for the first time. This world – creation – is superabundant and to be celebrated, cultivated and cared for in a way that honors our creator.

Part of what makes us unique as human beings (image bearers of God) is our unique capacity to cultivate and shape the world around us.

The biblical vision is one of all creation flourishing with human beings serving as God's appointed stewards and safeguards over it all.

Our "caring for and keeping" the garden (Genesis 2:15) and our "ruling over and subduing" creation (Genesis 1:26-28) are the fitting actions of a human life rightly oriented toward God, our neighbors and all of Creation.

2. *The earth has a problem – and it's you and me!*

When human beings turn from God and live in ways that dishonor him, those effects ripple throughout our human relationships and over our relationship with creation.

This being the problem, where do we find hope? For ourselves and for Creation?

3. *Jesus Christ is the source of hope for all creation.*

Colossians 1:15-20 states, "It was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him (Jesus), and through him to reconcile to Himself all things, having made peace through the blood of his cross; whether things on earth or things in heaven."

Six times in these six verses we read "all things" just to make the point clear – God is reconciling all things to himself through Christ. God's redemption and reconciliation are not just about humanity; they are cosmic in scope.

When we are out caring for our gardens and seeking to reduce our family footprint, we aren't just being good citizens, we are taking seriously what it means to be an image-bearer of God.

When our churches begin to take seriously our "creaturely life," we bring honor and praise to the God who made all things.

And when we are out engaging our neighbors in the work of caring for our local places, we bear witness to the God who "makes all things new."

This Earth Day, let us respond to the great hope of Christ, who reconciles all things. Let us become the children of God, which creation waits for. And may the triune God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer – refresh us with his Spirit this work to do.

([Excerpt from article](#) by Matthew Humphrey)

LEARNING

Earth Day Follow-Up: With yesterday being Earth Day, here is the ["Earth Keeping" resource](#) we created a few years ago to support going deeper with our understanding of the Throughlines and to encourage "real work." As well, in the second half of [episode 611](#) of the Holy Post Podcast, Skye Jethani conducts a compelling interview with Katharine Hayhoe, a Christian climate scientist and author of ["Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World."](#)

LEADING

Leadership Cohort Gathering: We are looking forward to gathering at Entheos in just over 2 weeks. If you missed the registration deadline, please contact Ruth immediately (office@pcce.ca).

Job Postings: A reminder that PCCE's website has a Job Postings section that is free for PCCE members to use. Send the request and information to Ruth at office@pcce.ca. Additionally, through our collaboration with our sister organizations, PCCE schools can also post for free on the [SCSBC](#) and [Edvance](#) websites.

A Few Things To Do:

- Register for the Christian Schools Canada 2024 conference in Halifax. All the details are on the [website](#). Early bird registration deadline is May 31.
- Have a look at the [Converge](#) website, if you are interested in another Christian school conference next year. Christian Schools Canada is one of the "host organizations."

LOOKING AHEAD

May 9-10 PCCE Leadership Cohort Conference

May 24 TTT 101 Celebration of Learning: *Virtual*

September 25-27 Christian Schools Canada Leadership Conference

October 24-25 2024 PCCE Teachers' Convention

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