

## Pentecost Term 1- 'Earth Day'



Earth Day Network's mission is to broaden and diversify the environmental movement worldwide and to mobilize it as the most effective vehicle to build a healthy, sustainable environment, address climate change, and protect the Earth for future generations.

Growing out of the first Earth Day, Earth Day Network is the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement, working with more than 50,000 partners in 196 countries to build environmental democracy. We work through a combination of education, public policy, and consumer campaigns.

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark [Clean Air Act](#), [Clean Water Act](#), [Endangered Species Act](#) and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

TO FIND OUT MORE, FOLLOW THE LINK: <http://www.earthday.org/?gclid=COnVjr6VmtMCFRSeGwodjFsKcg>



**Daily Bible readings [HERE](#)**  
**and**  
**Thought for the Day clips [HERE](#)**

Hymn of the week:

Be still for the presence of the Lord.

To [sing along](#) click on the poster



Pentecost 1- Sacred Time

# Pentecost Term 1- 'Earth Day'



## Christian belief about the environment

Although human beings are seen as the most intelligent life form on earth, they are responsible for almost all the **damage** done to the planet. If we imagined the earth is aged 46, all the damage done has taken place in the last 60 seconds of the earth's life.

Christians say in the Apostles' Creed:

“ I believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth. ”

Christian teaching about **caring for the environment** comes from the Bible:

“ Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'... God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.' ”

**Genesis 1:26 and 28**

Some Christians have **interpreted** this story as giving people the right to exploit the environment. However, most people see themselves as being **responsible** for the world created by God and they have to make their own **decisions** about how to do this.

The Bible has very little else specific to say about the environment, but it explains the principles of **stewardship** (responsibility) for God's creation:

In the Old Testament the Jews were told to rest the land once every 50 years so that it would produce more in the future (Leviticus 25:8-11). They were also ordered not to destroy trees when they were attacking a city:

Sikhism is very concerned with the relationship between humanity and the environment. They believe that **Waheguru** created the world as a place where every type of plant and animal could live so that all life could have the chance to prove that it was good enough to reach mukti (liberation from the cycle of birth and death, reincarnation).

Guru Nanak taught:

Nature we see  
Nature we hear  
Nature we observe with awe, wonder and joy  
Nature in the nether regions  
Nature in the skies  
Nature in the whole creation...  
Nature in species, kinds, colours  
Nature in life forms  
Nature in good deeds  
Nature in pride and in ego  
Nature in air, water and fire  
Nature in the soil of the earth  
All nature is yours, O powerful Creator  
You command it, observe it and pervade within it.  
(Guru Granth Sahib)



The lives of the Gurus are full of stories of their love for nature. Sikhs are forbidden to kill for the sake of killing or to eat to excess.

In Sikh hymns Waheguru is said to be the provider of all life. There is no difference between the world of humans and the world of nature. Both of these are equally important and must be treated with respect.

**The relationship between human beings and the earth is increasingly complicated and urgent. Every day there are stories about pollution, global warming and animal species facing extinction. Religion is responding with views on the environment and our responsibility for it.**

<http://formtimeideas.com/>

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