



*Creation waits
with eager
longing: How
will you respond?*

RECOMMITMENT

Be a Light in the Darkness for the Hungry and Oppressed

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*Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry
for help, and he will say, Here I am.*

*If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of
the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to
the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then
your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like
the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and
satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your
bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like
a spring of water, whose waters never fail.*

- Isaiah 58:9-11

Many of our brothers and sisters around the world are hungry and afflicted, living in poverty and suffering from injustice. The most current example is the people of Haiti, who suffered even before the massive earthquake in early January. The outpouring of aid and the unprecedented volunteer effort that has followed this incredible tragedy is proof that God is at work in the world in many ways.

But does it take a disaster to move us to action? Does it take something of this magnitude to stir the waters or can we teach ourselves to see more subtle clues of suffering and less deafening calls for justice?

The earth and its people are suffering from a changing climate. In the U.S. we are insulated from this reality; we see little evidence that climate change is real. But ask [native Alaskans](#) and they will tell you of retreating sea ice, eroding coastlines, and melting permafrost. Ask [farmers in Nicaragua](#) and they will tell you that the rain doesn't come when it used to, that floods happen more frequently, that they plant crops and they fail - year after year. Ask [church leaders in Tuvalu](#), one of the world's smallest sovereign nations, and they will tell you of rising

seas and disappearing land, of a people who may soon lack a country.

Below are some new resources to learn more about how you can be a light in the darkness for those who are hungry and oppressed, by standing with them, telling their stories, and working for climate justice:

[“Poverty and Hunger in a Changing Climate”](#) - a fact sheet explaining the links between poverty and climate change.

[“Climate Change and Hunger in Nicaragua”](#) - a short DVD about climate change impacts in Nicaragua, told through the eyes of an ELCA delegation. Includes a study guide for group reflection: “As long as the earth endures.”

The National Council of Churches 2010 Earth day Sunday resource [“Sacred Spaces and an Abundant Life: Worship Spaces as Stewardship”](#) - congregational tools to be better stewards of the earth, starting with their own worship spaces.

Stay tuned beginning on Ash Wednesday for a Lenten journey on Climate Justice. Since you are receiving this e-mail, you’re already signed up for this list and will receive the emails for Lent automatically. Please encourage others to receive the Lenten series (and these monthly Living Earth reflections). People can sign up at www.elca.org/advocacy on the ELCA Web site.

And, your congregation may also be interested in using [“Creation Waits with Eager Longing”](#) - our care of creation-themed series for Wednesday worship during the Lenten season.

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