CARING FOR GOD’S GOOD GREEN EARTH
Celebrating Earth Month 2022 and Beyond

The Message…
God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish of the sea and the birds in the air and the cattle, and yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of the Earth.”
Genesis 1:28

The Challenge…
All life is interconnected. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are called to care for one another and for the whole of God’s beautiful creation. Climate change is dramatically affecting us all. From wildfires like those in California and Australia, to hurricanes and typhoons, to increasing floods and droughts, to melting glaciers and permafrost, to a warming ocean and rising sea levels, to more severe rain and snow storms, the whole of creation is suffering and at risk.

The Opportunity…
Your individual actions to be responsible and care for God’s creation make a difference. Each individual action has an impact and collectively we can help heal the planet. Celebrate the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day on April 22 and join Village Church’s Environmental Action Committee by doing any or all of the following actions during Earth Month 2022 and beyond.

___ Eat less meat, especially beef and lamb. Eat lower on the food chain. Eat a plant-based diet.
___ Buy locally grown food, especially organic.
___ Eliminate food waste. Save and eat left-overs.
___ Compost food and other organic waste:
   (Curbside pick-up: www.compostcollectivekc.com, www.foodcyclekc.com)
___ Reduce. Consume less.
___ Reuse and repurpose. Avoid single use items, especially plastic.
___ Recycle. Sort your trash. (paper, aluminum, metals, plastics, chipboard, & cardboard)
___ Make your next car a hybrid, a hybrid electric, or an all electric.
___ Plant a tree or two or three.
___ Rebuild and enrich topsoil.
___ Consume renewable energy (Evergy’s renewable subscription program* or Arcadia Power**).

* https://www.evergy.com/smart-energy/renewable-resources/subscription-programs
** https://welcome.arcadia.com/how-it-works
https://financialpanther.com/arcadia-power-review/
https://thecollegeinvestor.com/22913/arcadia-power-review/
Environmental Impacts of Food and Agriculture

Food’s GHG emissions come from land use change, farming, animal feed, processing, transportation, retail, and packaging. These emissions account for over a quarter (26%) of global GHG emissions that are contributing to climate change. The chart below summarizes the global impacts of several food choices expressed in **GHG Emissions per Kilogram of Food Product**. It is taken from a January 2020 report published by *Our World in Data* (Global Change Data Lab). Compare the following food choices:

- **Beef (beef herd)**: 60 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Lamb**: 24 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Pork**: 9 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Fish (farmed)**: 5 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Fish (wild catch)**: 3 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Poultry**: 6 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Prawns (farmed)**: 8 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Coffee**: 12 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product

There is a vast difference in greenhouse gases (GHG) that are produced across various food types.

**GHG emissions per kilogram of food product** (kg CO2 equivalents per kg product)

- **Beef (beef herd)**: 60 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Lamb and mutton**: 24 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Cheese**: 12 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Beef (dairy herd)**: 19 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Chocolate**: 17 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Coffee**: 12 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Prawns (farmed)**: 8 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Palm oil**: 7 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Pig meat**: 6 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Poultry meat**: 6 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Olive oil**: 6 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Fish (farmed)**: 5 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Eggs**: 4.5 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Rice**: 4.0 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Fish (wild catch)**: 3.0 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Milk**: 2.5 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Cane sugar**: 1.4 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Groundnuts**: 1.0 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Tomatoes**: 1.0 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Maize (corn)**: 1.0 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Cassava**: 0.9 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Soy milk**: 0.9 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Peas**: 0.9 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Bananas**: 0.7 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Root vegetables**: 0.4 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Apples**: 0.4 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Citrus fruits**: 0.3 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product
- **Nuts**: 0.2 kg CO2 equivalents per kg product

Note: Greenhouse gas emissions are given as global average values based on data across 187,000 commercially viable farms in 189 countries.