



## Session 5: Climate Crisis & Reorienting Ourselves to Hope

Video Presentation by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas,  
Diocese of Western Massachusetts (See webpage for biography)

### Opening Prayer

#### Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace,  
that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

~ Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

### Bible Verse Referenced in Margaret Bullitt-Jonas' Video

#### Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Questions for Reflection & Discussion

There are likely more questions than you have time for, so select those you feel are most meaningful for your group and invite participants to explore the others after the session.

1. What happens in your body when you don't feel hope?
2. Have you ever thought of hope as having power?
3. The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas says hope is forward-facing. What do you think she means by this?
4. "Hope moves us out of withdrawal and into engagement." What is something you can do when it comes to the changing climate and ecological devastation? What is something we can do together?
5. What is the difference between hope and Christian hope?
6. The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas says that Christian hope holds hands with faith and love. How do you nourish your hope with faith and love so it doesn't fade away?
7. What does it look like to take hold of faith when we're in a hopeless place?
8. What do you love so much that you would give everything, perhaps your very life, to protect it?
9. How do we share our deep Christian hope with people outside our congregations?
10. The video mentions Rebecca Solnit's quote that "Action is impossible without hope," and that "Hope should shove you out the door." How can you commit to the future so the present is inhabitable?
11. The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas wrote that her ultimate hope is to be "the possibility of the presence and love of God being fully expressed in the world." She invites us to name our ultimate hope and to live inside it. What is your ultimate hope?

## Sending Prayer

### **The Joy in Climate Justice**

by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, *Creation Care Network E-News*, July 2022

*A few weeks ago, I gave a keynote presentation for the annual meeting of Episcopal Church Women of Province One. I spoke about how we pray, learn, act, and advocate for God's creation. Here are my closing thoughts:*

*I titled this presentation, "The joy in climate justice." So, where's the joy?*

*The joy is in living with purpose, in getting up every morning with gratefulness that we have another day to serve the Lord of life. I take this as Jesus' mission statement: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).*

*The joy is in sharing God's mission of reconciling us with each other, with God, and with the Earth on which all life depends. Archbishop Desmond Tutu called that reconciliation the "supreme work" of Jesus Christ.*

*The joy is in knowing – amid the uncertainty and heartbreak of such a precarious time – that our decisions matter, our choices matter, and love matters most of all. Love is what brought us here; love is why we're here; and love will welcome us home at our journey's end.*