

A Conference to Share God's Green Earth: Christians, COVID and the Biodiversity Crisis

On May 23rd, the day after the UN International Biodiversity Day, Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal held an online mini-conference on the current extinction crisis and its connections to human rights, to the COVID 19 pandemic, and to the Christian faith. All the conference presentations and reflections are now available on YouTube, and can be accessed using the links below. You are invited and encouraged to share them with friends, or with groups to which you belong, or even with your elected representatives. *If you would like one or more of the presenters to view or review one of these presentations with you, or would like them to lead a discussion with your group, you are invited to contact our people's warden and presenter Michele Rattray-Huish <rattrayhuish.michele@gmail.com>*

Welcome

The Very Reverend Bertrand Olivier, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral
<https://youtu.be/FZWgR3NWSbg>

Land Acknowledgement

Edward Yankie

<https://youtu.be/HI-nyCXY4-c>

Greetings to the Natural World

A Haudenosaunee Opening Address, used by permission •

<https://youtu.be/THzdDmf2lfg>

What is Biodiversity and Why does it Even Matter Right Now?

Michele Rattray-Huish

<https://youtu.be/wVHAWCnO1GE>

Musical Pause for Reflection. "What the trees know."

Evan Chambers, included by permission of the composer

<https://youtu.be/L6SZrroZRok>

The Accidental Nature Preserve: Defending and Promoting Biodiversity at Blackwood Farm.

Prof. Peter Brown and Margaret (Meg) Graham, Ph.D.

<https://youtu.be/uoJHUGdxKql>

In Every Leaf and Rock: A Traditional Lakota Prayer

Read by the Very Reverend Dr. Michael Pitts

https://youtu.be/O_LbOJu74CQ

Indigenous Land and Water Defenders.

Stephanie (Taddy) Stringer, M.A.

<https://youtu.be/kOb28hOmdlw>

How Wolves Change Rivers: A Tale for All Ages

Sustainable Human

<https://youtu.be/ysa5OBhXz-Q>

The Human Rights Challenge of Our Time.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

https://youtu.be/rlh_ptOijkq

Exile and Finding Home Again: Seeking the Health of the Land

Rev Dr Deborah Meister

<https://youtu.be/XkOrNi6jaF0>

Musical Reflection: By the Waters of Babylon

The Cathedral Singers, under the direction of Patrick Wedd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwLG4jlnOm8>

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Invitation to Action and Advocacy: The first step toward the healing of the land and all of its creatures – plants, animals, fungi, and even microorganisms on which life depends - is to raise awareness of the extent of the crisis, awareness of the fact that solutions are available, and awareness of the fact that these solutions are not being implemented, despite what politicians may claim. All three are crucial, because if we are confronted with the terrifying facts without being provided with feasible solutions, we may well retreat further into denial or despair. You are welcome to use any of the above resources to support this work in your community.