

Outline of Faith Forum Session “Climate Anxiety: What’s the Use?”

Introduction: (Leah)

- St. B’s Green Team: Creation Caretakers
- Title of today’s session: Climate Anxiety: What’s the Use?
- Find links to two handouts on St. B’s website: <https://stbs-md.org/adult-formation/>

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we confess that collectively that we have created an existential threat to our world that is of our own making, and with humility we are sorry for this. This morning we bring the offering of ourselves in sharing our concerns about humankind’s treatment of Mother Earth. Stir us up with a holy discontent over a world that is bent on squandering and spoiling the gifts of your creation. Help us discover ways for us to live in better harmony with our environment, and guide us to move forward toward the future in hope. We have faith that you will be with us on this formidable journey. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Statement of the Problem: (Drew)

- Scientists concur that humans are causing rapid environmental changes through pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) production. We see the results in extreme rainfalls, tornadoes, stronger hurricanes, and rising sea levels.
- Global warming has been a topic in scientific circles for a hundred years, and every year we delay in tackling the problem makes it harder to treat.
- What are we doing on individual, political, and industrial/commercial scales? Every level matters!
- Are our responses significant enough to avert disaster?
- What is our leadership doing/advocating?

Sharing our Anxieties about this Existential Crisis (Everybody)

Ensure to cover these points:

- Have we already gone over the cliff? (Drew)
- General public is confused, unaware, or in denial of science about climate change (Michael and others)
- I’m doing my bit but I’m discouraged that others are not (Sharon)
- Increasing lack of biodiversity (Peggy and Leah)
- Inequalities in healthy and safe environments/neighborhoods/
It’s all connected—healthy environment, social justice, equality (Peggy and Margaret)
- Global Footprint Calculator (Drew)

How to Make a Difference (Everybody)

- Handout's "Taking Action" Section – 12 ideas for taking action
- Ensure to cover:
 - Follow a local environmental group
 - Domestic practices like recycling, composting, native gardening, and electrifying
 - Become informed/advocate for impending legislation
 - Next Litter Cleanup Saturday, March 19

Make and Write Down an "Environmental Action to Do" as a Lenten Discipline (ALL)

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer:

We give you thanks for your loving hands, which provide for the needs of every living thing. This morning we have sought ways to live more in harmony with our environment. May the plans we made today and our intended deeds express our respect and love for what you have created. May the doing of them strengthen our resolve to be good stewards of the earth. Amen.