# FAITH TRADITIONS ON CARING FOR THE EARTH - compiled by Rachel Clyde - Interfaith Power & Light

#### Bahá'í

"Anthropogenic climate change is not inevitable; humanity chooses its relationships with the natural world...the current global order has often approached the natural world as a reservoir of material resources to be exploited. The grace consequences of this paradigm have become all too apparent, and more balanced relationships among the peoples of the world and the planet are clearly needed."

-Shared Vision, Shared Volition: Choosing Our Global Future Together

https://www.bahai.us

### Catholic

"We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. The worldwide ecological movement has already made considerable progress and led to the establishment of numerous organizations committed to raising awareness of these challenges...It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter...can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face."
-Encyclical Letter *Laudato si'* of the Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home <a href="http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco/20150524\_enciclica-laudato-si.html">http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco/20150524\_enciclica-laudato-si.html</a>

# **Evangelical**

"Christians must care about climate change because we love God the Creator and Jesus our Lord, through whom and from whom the creation the creation was made. This is God's world, and any damage that we do to God's world is an offense against God Himself. Christians must care about climate change because we are called to love our neighbors, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, and to protect and care for the least of these as though each was Jesus Christ himself."

-Statement of the Evangelical Climate Initiative; Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action Preamble

http://www.christiansandclimate.org/statement/

## Buddhist

"Our concern is founded on the Buddha's realization of dependent co-arising, which interconnects all things in the universe. Understanding this interconnected causality and the consequences of our actions are critical steps in reducing our environmental impact...through our lack of insight, we are destroying the very life support systems that we and all other living beings depend on for survival."

-Buddhist Climate Change Statement to World Leaders <a href="http://gbccc.org">http://gbccc.org</a>

### Daoism

"Taoist beliefs emphasize respecting and protecting nature, all in the pursuit of harmony between the human beings and the environment."

-Ren Farong, Former President of the Chinese Daoist Association

https://www.chinadialogue.net/culture/9669-Taoistmonks-find-new-role-as-environmentalists/en

#### Hindu

"Members of the global Hindu community again urge strong, meaningful action be taken, at both the international and national level, to slow and prevent climate change. Such action must be scientifically credible and historically fair, based on deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through a transition away from polluting technologies...We cannot rely on governments alone to act, however. Each one of us has a part to play in reducing climate pollution, by changing our inner and outer behaviour. As Mahatma Gandhi posited, 'If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. We need not wait to see what others do.""

-Hindu Declaration on Climate Change <a href="http://www.hinduclimatedeclaration2015.org/english">http://www.hinduclimatedeclaration2015.org/english</a>

# **Baptist**

"There is undeniable evidence that the earth-wildlife, water, land and air--can be damaged by human activity, and that people suffer as a result. When this happens, it is especially egregious because creation serves as revelation of God's presence, majesty and provision...we humbly take responsibility for the damage that we have done to God's cosmic revelation and pledge to take an unwavering stand to preserve and protect the creation over which we have been given responsibility by Almighty God."

-A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change <a href="http://www.bpnews.net/27585/full-text-of-sbecideclaration">http://www.bpnews.net/27585/full-text-of-sbecideclaration</a>

# **Episcopal**

"Scientific research shows that climate change affects nearly all aspects of life...Our goal as Christians is not to ascribe blame but rather to examine our own actions and how they relate to God's will for us and for the created order, and to challenge our communities to a new way of being...we hold a particular responsibility for the changes in practice that will reverse the trajectory of atmospheric warming and safeguard the sanctity of what our God calls 'very good' (Genesis 1).

-Sustaining Hope in the Face of Climate Change <a href="https://www.episcopalchurch.org/fr/node/100647">https://www.episcopalchurch.org/fr/node/100647</a>

#### Islam

"In the Islamic point of view, nature is alive. It's conscious. It follows God's laws. And what we're doing is breaking those laws in the name of our own earthly welfare, and now we're destroying the very habitat that God created for us."

-Seyyed Hossein Nasr speaking at the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change <a href="https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2016/05/islamic-declaration-on-climate-change/">https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2016/05/islamic-declaration-on-climate-change/</a>

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# **Indigenous Traditions**

"Yet, here I am, standing in front of you today, on behalf of the global indigenous community, sharing my language and sharing my culture over the past two weeks of COP24. Because we're still here. Resilience is in our blood, it's in our language, and it's in our relationship with our Mother Earth. Our indigenous ways of knowing, rooted in the experiences of our ancestors, is the medicine that this sick world needs right now."

-Michael Charles for the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change at COP24 https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5627862ce4b07b e93cfb9461/t/5c24fcd34d7a9c7f726ee351/1545927891 558/Closing+Plenary+Statement.pdf

# Presbyterian

"As our planet grows warmer, our Christian witness must become bolder. As individuals, families, congregations, and church administrative bodies, we must become the change we want to see in our nation. We must put our own houses in order even as we call on our nation to accept its moral responsibility with regard to energy policy and climate change. Together we must radically reduce our carbon footprint."

-The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming

https://www.pcusa.org/site\_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/energyreport.pdf

## Sikh

"Today, the Earth is vulnerable because of climate change and because people have not protected their environments. Today, it is time to act and show that we are true warriors of the Khalsa. We must make amends with the Earth. Our Mother Earth, *Mata Dharat*, has gone through undeniable changes at the hands of humans. It is abundantly clear that our action has caused great damage to the atmosphere and is projected to cause even more damage if left unhandled...And as Sikhs we pledge to take concrete actions ourselves. We have a responsibility to follow our Gurus' teachings and protect the vulnerable."

-Sikh Statement on Climate Change http://www.ecosikh.org/wp-

#### Judaism

"We have a responsibility to life, to defend it everywhere, not only against our own sins but also against those of others. We are all passengers together in this same fragile and glorious world."

-Jewish Statement: The Assisi Declaration http://www.arcworld.org/faiths.asp?pageID=159

## **Ouaker**

"As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth...We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth."

-A Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change

 $\frac{https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/shared-quaker-statement-facing-challenge-climate-change}{}$ 

## **United Church of Christ**

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ admits Christian complicity in the damage human beings have caused to the earth's climate system and other planetary life systems, and urges recommitment to the Christian vocation of responsible stewardship of God's creation, and expresses profound concern for the pending environmental, economic, and social tragedies threatened by global warming, to creation, human communities and traditional sacred spaces..."

-A Resolution on Climate Change, 2007 https://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries\_synod-resolutions a-resolution-on-climate

### Methodist

"The crisis facing God's earth is clear. We, as stewards, have failed to live into our responsibility to care for creation and have instead abused it in ways that now threaten life around the planet...As a matter of stewardship and justice, Christians must take action now to reduce global warming pollution and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world whose land, livelihood and lives are threatened by the global climate crisis."

-United Methodist Church Statement on Climate Change

https://ncipl.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/United-Methodist.pdf

## Shinto

"Shinto sees nature as the divinity itself... So, Shinto suggests that we should shift our point of view and look at our environment with the spirit of "reverence and gratitude," that is, with the spirit of parental care for children or with the spirit of brotherhood."

-Shinto Faith Statement

http://www.arcworld.org/faiths.asp?pageID=74

## **Unitarian Universalist**

"We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses. As a people of faith, we commit to a renewed reverence for life and respect for the interdependent web of all existence."

-Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change: 2006 Statement of Conscience

https://www.uua.org/action/statements/threat-global-warmingclimate-change