



Pastor Scott Archer 09.29.2019*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
www.ccclamesa.com

Creation Caretakers
Genesis 1:26-2:15
Fifth Sunday Mission’s Mandate

Central Passages

Genesis 1:27–28 (ESV) — *27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Genesis 2:15 (ESV) — *15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

Central Thought: Our original vocation as humankind made in the image of God was to be caretakers of his good creation, working with divine authority toward the flourishing of all life and the preservation and cultivation of the planet as a whole.

Toward a Christian Ecology...

- ❖ The Earth and the cosmos were created by God and belong to God.

Psalms 24:1–2 (ESV) — *1 The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.*

- Thus, the Earth is not our mother, rather “she” is our sister and God has made us responsible for “her” wellbeing.

- ❖ The Earth itself is suffering due to our sin, and our relationship to “her” is disjointed.

Romans 8:18–22 (ESV) — *18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*

- Thus, as human caretakers, we must work even harder to establish an ecology of flourishing for the created order.

- ❖ Jesus is both the creative and recreative agent of God’s good purposes for humankind, the Earth and the cosmos.

John 1:1–3 (ESV) — *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Revelation 21:5–6 (ESV) — *5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end...”*

- Thus, we can and should face ecological crises with determination and hope.

Colossians 1:19–20 (ESV) — *19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*