



## CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Sermon Notes for Sunday, April 28, 2024. Based on Rev. Chris Heckert's sermon.

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I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. – Matthew 25:35-26

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1. St. Francis shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Pope Francis writes: "Humanity still has the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ in building our common home."\*
3. When Jesus names these acts of care to the least of these, he is naming spiritual issues that are impacted by greater system issues:
  1. **Hunger and Thirst** - \_\_\_\_\_
  2. **Hospitality to Strangers/Foreigners** - \_\_\_\_\_
  3. **Health - visit the sick** - \_\_\_\_\_
  4. **Prison - visit the imprisoned** - \_\_\_\_\_
4. The issues that Jesus names are not political issues that the church spiritualizes, but Jesus calls us to see that these are spiritual issues that get \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Love is the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The United Methodist Social Principles state:

“...let us recognize the responsibility of the \_\_\_\_\_ to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation.”\*\*

### Questions for Reflection

1. Where do you experience God in creation the most?
2. In what ways have you witnessed the glory of God revealed in creation tainted by human pollution, overcrowding, or mistreatment?
3. What is one thing you can do to love God and neighbor by caring for the natural world?

\*Pope Francis. (2015). Laudato si': On care for our common home. Retrieved from [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

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