

Celebrate Earth Month at St. Bart's

Earth Month is coming to St. Bart's!

Earth Day was established to raise awareness of the need to protect our planet's natural resources. First observed in several American cities on April 22, 1970, it has since grown into a global event. This year, [Earth Day](#) falls on Saturday, April 22, but St. Bart's will be celebrating throughout the month with an array of offerings designed to help parishioners reflect on the goodness of God's creation and our role in its stewardship, as well as take practical steps to care for our fragile island home.

Worship services on April 15–16, April 22–23, and April 29–30 will feature special liturgies, prayer, and music focused on creation care, including the [California Benedicite](#). In addition, the following activities are scheduled:

Wednesday, April 5, 6 p.m.

ReGeneration Contemporary Worship and Eucharist

St. Bart's mid-week contemporary service, with post-service dinner hosted by the Peace and Justice ministry

Saturday, April 15, 1 p.m.

[Chaparral Chapel](#)

A contemplative nature experience

Sunday, April 16, 10:45 a.m.

["Sharing Sustainability Tips for Everyday Living" Forum](#)

Wednesday, April 26, 6-8 p.m.

[Covenant to Care: Inspiration for the Journey—Prayers and Poetry for Hearts, Minds, and Hands](#)

A contemplative retreat featuring poetry to inspire new responses to creation care

Saturday, April 29, 5 p.m.

[Interfaith Service](#)

More detailed descriptions of these offerings are provided below. Please join us in commemorating Earth Month—all are welcome!

Chaparral Chapel

Please join us on Saturday, April 15, at 1 p.m. for our inaugural "Chaparral Chapel" at [Blue Sky Ecological Reserve](#) in Poway. This event will be an immersive experience of Creation and Spirit, as we journey together to learn how to better listen to and understand the unique voices of our local ecosystems.

After gathering at the amphitheater (next to the parking lot) for an opening ritual, participants may choose to either sit quietly in self-reflection or take a contemplative nature walk guided by

the Rev. Brian Petersen (a certified Chaparral Naturalist through the California Chaparral Institute). It will take the form of an “Earth Examen,” as we will engage our senses to deepen our connections with nature. We will stop along the way to ponder different questions and share observations, and also to learn more about some of our plant and animal neighbors with whom we share this beautiful land.

There are two options for the walk: an easy, two-mile out-and-back trail or a shorter one-mile loop. The trail in Blue Sky Ecological Reserve is generally flat with some slight slopes in just a few places; however, it is a dirt trail and not accessible for those using walkers or other mobility devices.

Our hope is to begin hosting Chaparral Chapel at different locations around our county, so that we can appreciate and learn from the incredible biodiversity of this place we call home.

For more information, contact the [Rev. Brian Petersen](#).

“Sharing Sustainability Tips for Everyday Living” Forum

The Environmental Stewardship Team will host a “Sharing Sustainability Tips for Everyday Living” forum in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 16, after the 9:30 a.m. service. Join us to discuss practical actions we can take to care for creation, from lowering household energy use to buying sustainable clothing to reducing food waste and single-use products. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own tips for living more sustainably—let’s learn from each other! For more information, contact [Parth Domke](#).

Covenant to Care: Inspiration for the Journey—Prayers and Poetry for Hearts, Minds, and Hands

On Wednesday, April 26, at 6-8 p.m., the Rev. Nancy Burnett will guide participants in an evening retreat designed to lead us beyond the words of new and familiar poems into spaces of imagination to inspire new responses to creation care. We will creatively reflect on poetic imagery and close with prayer created out of our shared experience. No special skills or knowledge needed. A light vegetable soup and bread supper will be part of the retreat. Please RSVP to the [Rev. Nancy Burnett](#).

Interfaith Service

The Interfaith Coalition for Earth Justice (ICEJ) and other local faith leaders are collaborating to host a creation care-focused interfaith service in Balboa Park on Saturday, April 29, at 5 p.m. A meal and fellowship will follow the service—please bring your own picnic dinner! For more information, contact [Parth Domke](#).