

## Testimony on Earthcare

Friends' testimonies on simplicity, equality, peace and community suggest the need for an explicit testimony on Earthcare at this time in our history.

*It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?*  
~William Penn, 1693

*In the distress of the earth we can hear the calling of God to care, just as in the past we have heard God in the sufferings of the poor...the commonwealth of people and the commonwealth of the earth have become inseparably interrelated and interdependent. Our thinking about God and the world, and the way we live in relation to them, must now give recognition to that fact.*  
~Rex Ambler, 1990

## Earthcare

We seek to live our lives in reverence for all life on Earth, encompassing right-sharing of the world's resources amongst all people and all species. Friends are called to enter into right relationship with Earth and the community of life it supports.

Friends see that of God within all life. We celebrate the mystery and wonder of our world and the gifts of nature that sustain and support us. At the same time, we see that human actions are undermining and destroying Earth's capacity to continue to bring forth these gifts. We hold these gifts in deep reverence, respect and gratitude.

Friends recognize that those who suffer most from the destruction of Earth's gifts are the poor and the powerless. The wealthy, industrialized nations bear the greatest responsibility for this condition. We strive to find solutions to environmental damage that include peace and social justice for those people most affected by unequal sharing of the world's resources.

Much like a household that overspends its budget, humans are rapidly depleting Earth's resources with excessive, unwise consumption and a growing population. We are called to modify our daily, personal choices and to work at the local, national and global levels to ensure the resilience of Earth. We feel a sense of urgency to bring our lives into right relationship with the community of life on Earth. We are called to be faithful to continuing revelation in these matters, to be transformed in our habits as our hearts and minds are opened.

*Even  
The exhausted blade of grass  
That breaks through the concrete  
Listens  
To the Wind's Song  
And  
Knows that it would be foolish  
To do otherwise*

~Avotcja Jiltoniro, 2010

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