



Kivalina, AK, February 2015

# Global Warming and Global Ministry

*Becoming Church in “the Anthropocene”*

## ECF Webinar

Rev. P. Joshua Griffin, ECF Fellow

March 5, 2015



**EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH FOUNDATION**  
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Since 1964 the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) has provided financial support to emerging scholars and ministry leaders throughout the Episcopal Church. In addition to financial support, ECF helps these individuals to share their knowledge, experience, and best practices with the wider Church in practical ways.

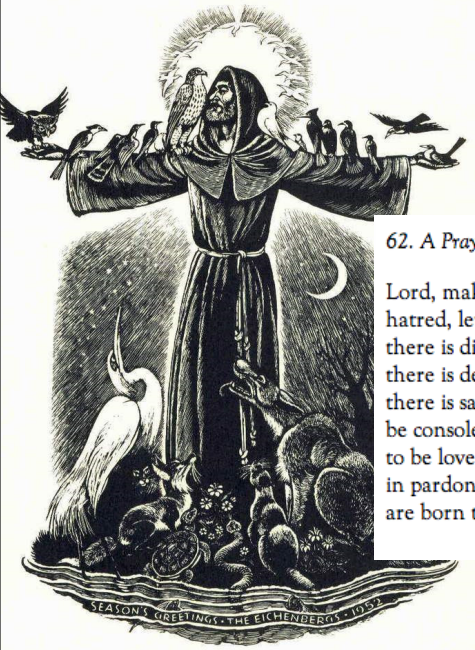
Open to both lay and ordained Episcopalians, ECF builds a relationship with Fellows not only when they are receiving financial support, but over the long haul, so that our community of Fellows may serve as a gift and resource to the Church in serving God's mission.



## Technical notes

- All participants are currently muted to cut out background noise and audio interference
- To start your web cameras, press "Start by Web Cam" button and "Start Sharing"
- If you have questions, please type them into the chat box on the right-hand side of the screen
- PDF's of the slides and resource list are downloadable
- This webinar is being recorded and will be made public





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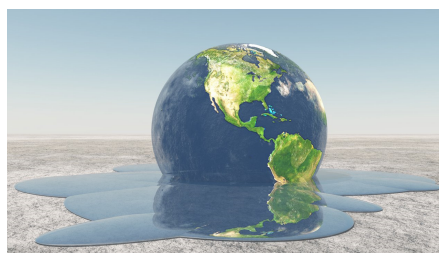
62. A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

BCP, p. 833

## Overview:

1. Opening Discussion: Ministry and Climate Change
2. "The Anthropocene," a New Context for Ministry?
3. Climate Justice and the Episcopal Church
4. Resilience, Restoration, and Resistance: A Typology for Anthropocene Ministry
5. Closing Conversation



## Discussion (use chat box):

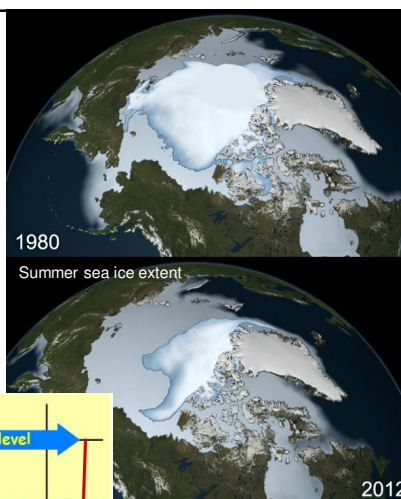
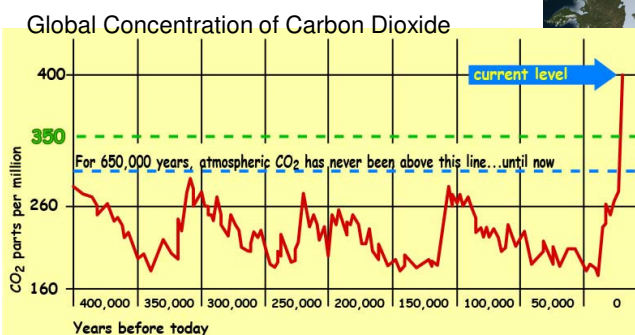
**What forms of ministry are we actively engaged in, that in some way address global climate change?**

*Consider the parish, deanery, diocesan, provincial, and denominational level.*



**this “liminal planet”**

**the earth is not what it once was,  
and is not yet what it is becoming**



Source: NASA



## Climate Has Changed.

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014) <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

### Greenhouse gas emissions by humans cause global warming:

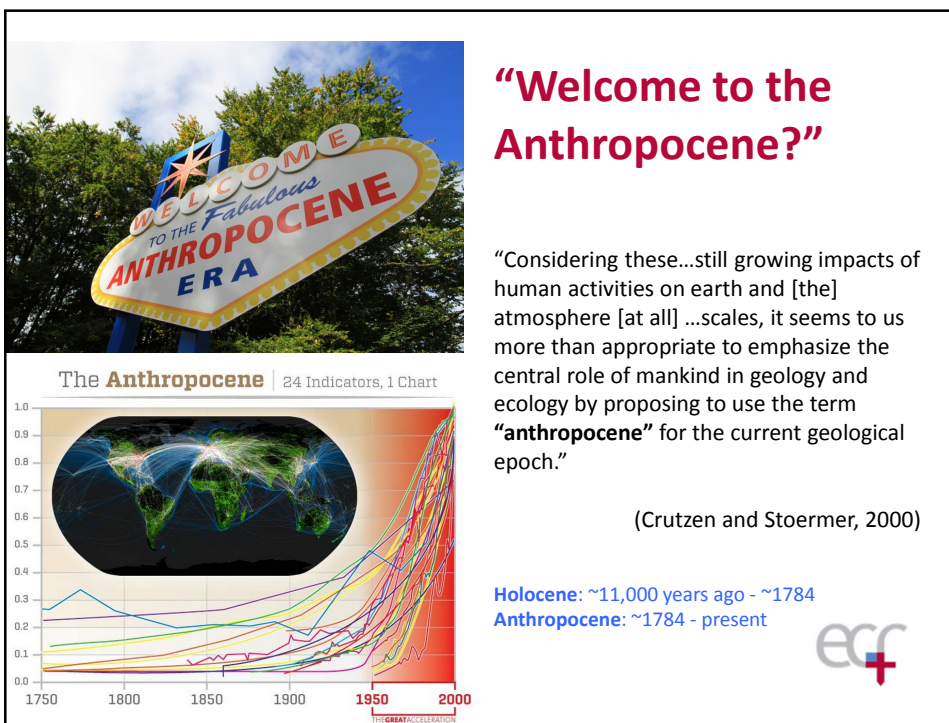
Human influence on the climate system is clear. This is evident from the increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, positive radiative forcing, observed warming, and understanding of the climate system. {2-14}

### More greenhouse gas emissions (fossil fuel consumption) will cause more warming:

Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. {6, 11-14}

With a rapid draw down in emissions we are *already* committed to 3.6 degrees F (2 deg. C.) warming from pre-industrial levels, by 2100.

\*Business as usual would likely mean at least double that amount.





## Ministry in the Anthropocene



Pancho Ramos-Stierle, co-founder (with Griff) of the Free Farm, SF.  
Pictured at Occupy the Farm, May 2013, Berkeley, CA.  
Photo: Emilie Raguso

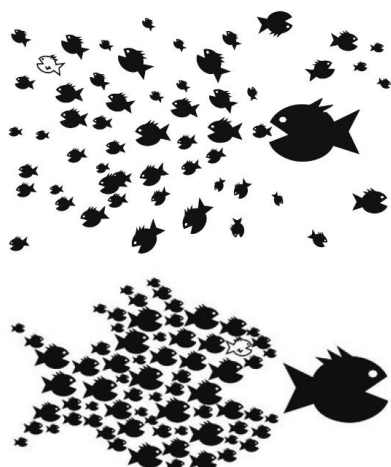
Many existing forms of ministry may be suited to this moment, but new forms might also need to be invented or recombined.

Some questions what we need to think about are:

- individual/collective action
- ecology and economy
- our theories of change



## Individual v. Collective Action?



Not only a political/economic question, but a spiritual, theological, and ecclesiological question!



## What are our “theories of change”?

And, are they adequate to the scale of situation at hand?



Isn't climate change inherently political?

What is being denied in “climate denial”?



## “Anthropocene,” or “Capitalocene”?



Can capitalism, as we know it, continue?



Do we believe that economic growth and expansion is the greatest good?

Do we work too much?

Do we reap a profit from other people's labor?

Do we exploit the earth?

Does the money mediate our daily social interactions and govern our collective decisions?

Do we confuse “exchange value” for “use value”? (ie. financial investments)

Do we have a hard time even imagining a different way of doing things?

## Ministry in the Anthropocene



*"Climate justice"* as a framework for contemporary ministry.

- disparate impacts
- historic responsibility



## Climate Justice in The Episcopal Church & the Anglican Communion



*Sources:*

Bishop's Quito Letter, Sept. 2011

GC Resolution B023, July 2012

Episcopal-Anglican Climate Justice Gathering, December 2010, Dominican Republic







## Climate Justice Ministry: a typology

I. Resilience

"constructive  
programme"

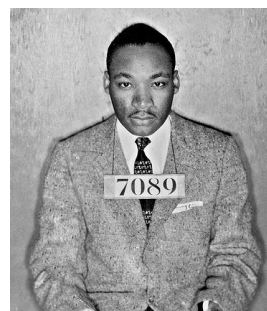


I. Restoration



I. Resistance

"obstructive programme"



## Resilience: find your frontline!

- "preferential option" for frontline communities

- if you come from a frontline community, you might draw on Episcopal networks to help build resilience in your own community

- for the environmentally privileged: build solidarity with frontline communities *on their own terms*

- hospitality for those displaced by climate change



With the Rev. Soner Alexandre (Haiti) and the Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado Del Campo (Cuba), Dominican Republic, December, 2010. Photo: Lynette Wilson, ENS.



With the Rev. Ronald "Jerry" Norton, Kivalina, Alaska, June 2012. Photo: Janet Mitchell



## Restoration/transition:

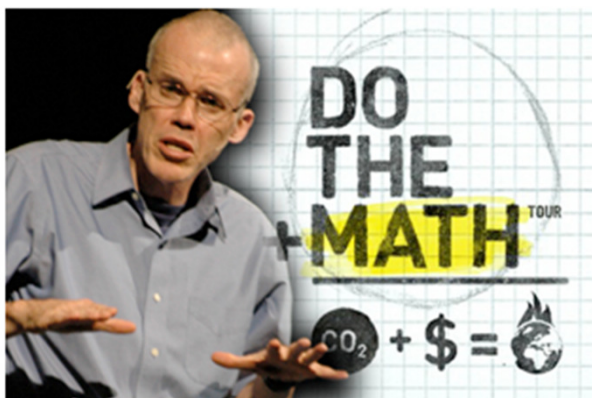


"restore the commons!"

- ecological restoration
- economic localization & democratization
- clean energy transition & decentralization
- de-growth? green jobs?
- non-violent financial mechanisms
- seek a just transition,  
***for workers especially***



[Bill McKibben,](#)  
["Global Warming's Terrifying](#)  
[New Math,"](#) *Rolling Stone*,  
[July 19, 2012.](#)



It's simple math: we can emit **565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide** and stay below **2°C of warming** — anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. The only problem? Burning the fossil fuel that corporations now have in their reserves would result in emitting **2,795 gigatons of carbon dioxide** – five times the safe amount.



## Resistance: or “incarnational politics”

Address the root causes of climate change at the source.

Challenge the fossil fuel industry (their funders and their political allies) through nonviolent direct action:

- public testimony
- divestment
- civil disobedience
- blockades/lockdowns
- occupations/encampments
- (social) media campaigns



By: Anthony Freda and Daniel Zollinger



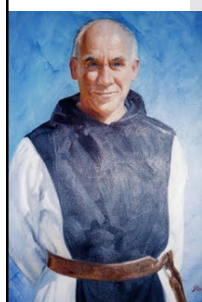
## Next Steps:

- Ground yourself spiritually and in community
- Find your nearest frontline and stand there
- Work for a just transition, restore the commons
- Join the fossil fuel resistance



Rev. Weston Mathews, of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA sits in against the proposed Atlantic Coast (fracked gas) Pipeline, Feb. 23, 2015.  
Photo: Richmond People's Climate March





“Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on... you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself.”

-Thomas Merton, 1966



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With Janet Mitchell and Colleen Swan  
of Kivalina Epiphany Church, June 2012

For more information on Re-Locate Kivalina, visit:

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