

# Recommended Reading on Climate Justice

These are a few of the many, many excellent books on the topic of this year's conference.

This list is on-line at <https://www.RevSawtell.org/Reading.pdf> – or just go to [www.RevSawtell.org](http://www.RevSawtell.org) for Congregations Alive! resources.



**Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change**, by Jim Antal. A revised edition is coming out in March. *The publisher is offering a 35% discount for orders of 10 copies or more.* Use promo code 4S23CCCW35. Order from <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538178898/Climate-Church-Climate-World-How-People-of-Faith-Must-Work-for-Change-Revised-and-Updated-Edition> (scan the QR code!)



**A Global Warming Primer: answering your questions about The Science, the Consequences, and the Solutions**, by Jeffrey Bennet. Although a bit dated (2016), this is a very clear and approachable explanation of what we're facing. It uses a question & answer format, and the answers are laid out so it is easy to see the main point, and then the finer details.

For the most up-to-date scientific information, see the UN's reports on climate change [<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>] and biodiversity (species extinction) [<https://ipbes.net>]. Check out the "Summary for Policymakers" to avoid being overwhelmed by details.

**What Climate Justice Means, and Why We Should Care**, by Elizabeth Cripps. A very specific and direct ethical manifesto, which boils down this complex global issue to six clear-cut ethical principles.

**Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future**, by Mary Robinson. A very personal and moving exploration by the former President of Ireland, and UN Special Envoy on Climate Change.

**Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Change**, edited by Leah Schade and Margaret Bullit-Jonas. Twenty-one essays "offering wisdom for fellow pilgrims grappling with the weight of climate change." Works well for study groups.

**Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World**, by Katherine Hayhoe. Hayhoe – an evangelical Christian – argues that when it comes to changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action.

**Words for a Dying World: Stories of Grief and Courage from the Global Church**,

by Hannah Malcolm. “This haunting collection of essays gives voice to experiences of ecosystem loss from outside of mainstream Western environmental consciousness, and in doing so beautifully demonstrates how the shared experience of grief might be a means of drawing us towards the global webs of solidarity we will surely need if our lives together are to be sustained into the future.”

**Warmth: Coming of Age at the End of Our World**, by Daniel Sherrell. Sherrell

“captures the complicated correspondence between hope and doubt, faith and despair – the pendulum of emotional states that defines our attitude toward the future.” – The New Yorker

**A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming**, by Sallie

McFague. How do we understand God in a world where we’re now dominating nature? How do we understand ourselves in such a way that we might shrink our impacts?

**Laudato Si’ – On Care for our Common Home**, the 2015 encyclical letter from Pope

Francis. This is far more than a statement on climate change; it is a call for people of faith to be active participants in a global conversation about science, economics, justice and ethics. The whole letter is on-line: <https://www.laudatosi.org/the-letter/encyclical-letter/>

**They Knew: The US Federal Government’s Fifty-Year Role in Causing the Climate**

**Crisis**, by James Gustave Speth. It is not just that the US hasn’t done enough to slow climate change. Speth traces through every US administration since Carter (and before that) to show that the climate science was known, and yet every administration actively pursued the expansion of fossil fuels.

**Earth-Honoring Faith: Religious Ethics in a New Key**, by Larry L. Rasmussen. An award-winning treatise offering a dramatically new way of thinking about human society, ethics, and the ongoing health of our planet. He insists that we must derive a spiritual and ecological ethic that accounts for the well-being of all creation, as well as the primal elements upon which it depends: earth, air, fire, water, and sunlight. (*Heavy reading!*)

**The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial Is Threatening Our Planet,**

**Destroying our Politics, and Driving Us Crazy**, by Michael E. Mann and Tom Toles. Dated (2016) but still informative and fun, the primary author (Mann) is a prominent and outspoken climate scientist, who challenges the false messages of climate deniers. Toles is a familiar political cartoonist, who echoes the scientific theme in his delightful artwork.

**Cathedral on Fire!: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis** by Brooks Berndt,

the national UCC’s Minister for Environmental Justice. Discuss the scriptural basis in pursuing justice for a planet and its people, the moral foundation for understanding the climate crisis as an inequality crisis and discover a powerful, sacred language for articulating what fundamentally motivates people to act. Each chapter includes discussion questions along with suggested actions that have been tested and proven.