

## A Message from Bishop Knudsen “A sustainable Eastertide”

March 31, 2016

Dear Friends,

Today’s newspapers report ice caps and glaciers are melting three times faster than predicted. Scientists estimate by the end of this century sea levels could rise by six feet.

Reducing greenhouse gasses will help. We can all do that. The Great Fifty Days, or Eastertide, is a perfect time for us to ramp up or adopt for the first time our commitment to care for God’s creation.

I fully support the linked action report the Ecumenical Leaders Group entitled “[Awake and Arise.](#)” In that report you’ll find, “Habits of Faith.” It’s an easy way to [track what you are doing](#) individually and as a congregation to share in the stewardship of “the fragile earth, our island home.”

*The Book of Common Prayer* honors our commitment to the care of creation not just in the above phrase in Eucharist Prayer C. There are prayers throughout calling on us to better care and appreciate what God has created. A favorite is in the Ash Wednesday Litany of Penitence:

“For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern  
for those who come after us, *Accept our repentance Lord.*”

Bishop Sutton and I urge us all to be good stewards of this gift of creation with which we’ve been entrusted. Thank you for all you do and “For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it.” (*BCP*, p. 384)

In Christ,  
+Chilton R. Knudsen  
Assistant Bishop of Maryland