

# Earth Hour 2009

## Life Is Worth More Than Oil

For the second year in a row, KAIROS invites you to turn off your lights in observance of Earth Hour. In 2009, the world comes together to turn off the lights at 8:30 pm on Saturday, March 28!

Earth Hour was begun to draw attention to the connection between our use of fossil fuels and climate change. This year, as part of the *Re-Energize: Time for a Carbon Sabbath* campaign, we are also drawing the links between fossil fuels and human rights and conflict. The connections between oil and conflict are seen around the world. In 2007, almost half of Canada's oil imports came from conflict-zone countries and countries with governments engaged in human rights violations, such as Algeria, Angola, Iraq, Nigeria, Indonesia, Colombia, and Ecuador.

So, when you gather this year, whether in a small group at home or in a larger gathering in your church or community, we encourage you to

- reflect on your use of fossil fuels and their connection not just to climate change but also to human rights abuses and conflict.
- advocate with local and federal governments to change their policies and practices related to fossil fuels — make sure all participants sign the KAIROS *Re-energize* campaign action cards!
- observe this time in the Latin American tradition of *¡Presente!*, a litany that has special resonance in the human rights struggle.

### What is *¡Presente!* ?

The word *presente* means “here” or “present” in Spanish, and is used as a collective response in prayers for the Communion of Saints. This powerful litany has a long tradition in Latin American political justice movements, where it is used to invoke the memory of those who have been killed during the struggle. After the leader makes an intercession for those peoples or places in need of our prayer and solidarity, the gathered community holds up their candles, responding in unison: *¡Presente!*

*¡Presente!* is especially well-suited to a larger church or community gathering, but it can be done with as few as two people, and can be especially moving in a small setting. See below for an outline of a *¡Presente!* service.

### What are Some Options for Earth Hour?

- Bring your church community together.
- If you're staying home, turn off the lights in your home for the hour.
- Just you and your family or a small gathering of friends? Spend the time together over a candlelit picnic of simply-prepared local food.
- Get in the community spirit and see if you can organize a lights-out hour in your apartment building or on your street. Gather together to look at the stars!
- Approach your community government, local businesses, and the whole community, and get them on board to turn out the lights.
- Get in touch with local media (newspaper, radio, television) to drum up news interest in what you're doing.

#### Let us know what you're up to!

KAIROS wants to know about your activities so we can let our government know that Canadian Christians think that the fossil fuel crisis requires immediate and substantial action. We also want to help people looking for an event on March 28 find one that they can attend. Please let us know about your Earth Hour event before it happens. After the event, call us or drop a line letting us know about your Earth Hour. Contact Sara Stratton at 1-877-403-8933 x 241 or [ssratton@kairoscanada.org](mailto:ssratton@kairoscanada.org).



### What happens at 9:30 p.m.?

What are you going to do when the lights come back on? Earth Hour is a symbolic action but it's very important, when we flick the lights back on at 9:30, that we commit to truly reducing our carbon footprints — as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. Think of ways in which you can commit to a more energy-efficient lifestyle and how you can encourage our elected officials to help us do that as a country. Consider joining a KAIROS *Carbon Sabbath Initiative* (CSI) group — for more information, contact Ecological Justice Program Coordinator Dorothy McDougall at 1-877-403-8933 x222 or [dmcDougall@kairoscanada.org](mailto:dmcDougall@kairoscanada.org).

## Advance Preparation Notes for a Church Gathering

### Consider Your Carbon Footprint

- When attending a church event, please do your best to carpool, take public transportation, or walk in order to truly reduce your carbon footprint. If you cannot do that, consider staying home and being there in spirit!
- Outdoor events can be fun but think twice before lighting barbeques or bonfires — these have a significant carbon cost!
- This service makes use of a lot of candles. We encourage you to use beeswax rather than petroleum-based candles. You can find them at fair trade stores such as Ten Thousand Villages, farmer's markets, and natural food stores.

### Set-Up

- Let us know about your service. Contact Sara Stratton at [sstratton@kairoscanada.org](mailto:sstratton@kairoscanada.org) or 1-877-403-8933 x 241. Please also register at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) under “organizations” to help the global count.
- If you are expecting a small gathering, you may want to pick an intimate spot in the church where you can set up a circle of chairs. Place a low table in the centre with some symbols of creation on it (plants, wind chimes, bowl of water, pebbles etc.). For larger gatherings, try to incorporate the symbols of creation into a central area of the space.
- Obtain a large central candle and enough taper candles in simple holders (such as those your church might use on Christmas Eve) for everyone.
- Locate all light switches and power sources in the church that will need to be turned off at 8:30 p.m. Turn off as many as possible before 8:30 p.m., and leave the lights in the gathering space as the only ones to be turned off before the service starts. **You may require minimal light for safety.**
- If possible, the leader should memorize the first two lines of the opening comments, so that they can proclaim them in the darkness.

### Ritual of Signing Action Cards

- Prepare the area for this ritual. You may want to bring lanterns or additional candles in stable candleholders to illuminate the writing area. Have pens handy.
- Get a basket to place in the central worship area. People will deposit their letters here. After the service, send your action cards to KAIROS.
- Ask the music leader if they are willing to play instrumental music during the letter-writing ritual. If this is not possible, the ritual can be done in silence.

### Suggested Hymns

**Voices United:** 282: Long Before the Night (This Ancient Love); 677: O God of Every Nation; 684: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace; 687: When Will People Cease Their Fighting?; 697: O for a World

**More Voices (United):** 111: A Voice Was Heard in Ramah; 154: Deep in Our Hearts; 209: Go, Make a Difference; 171: Christ Has No Body Now but Yours; 179: Sisters Let Us Walk Together; 212: Sent Out in Jesus' Name

**Common Praise (Anglican):** 573: O Day of Peace; 575: Let Streams of Living Justice; 576: For the Healing of the Nations; 585: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service; 591: Our Cities Cry to You, O God; 593: O God of Every Nation



**Hymnal: A Worship Book (Mennonite):** 403: The Church of Christ, in Every Age; 405: Where Cross the Crowded Ways; 408: O Day of Peace; 409: What Does the Lord Require; 412: We Shall Walk through the Valley

**The Book of Praise (Presbyterian):** 560: Put Peace into Each Other's Hands; 710: What Does the Lord Require; 713: Lord, O Lord Our God; 720: Our Cities Cry to you, O God; 723: Lord in this Broken World; 727: Let There Be Light

**Lutheran Book of Worship:** 290: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy; 355: Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow, 413: Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation, 414: O God of Love, O King of Peace, 416: O God of Every Nation, 422: O God, Empower Us

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship:** 587: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy; 706: The People Walk; 709: When Our Song Says Peace; 713: O God of Every Nation; 715: Christ, Be Our Light; 728: Blest Are They

**Worship in Song: A Friends Hymnal:** 284: Cuando El Pobre (When the Poor Ones); 287: God Who Is Father, Mother; 289: Not Only Acts of Evil Will; 292: When Will You Save the People?; 293: When I Needed a Neighbor; 297: Imagine There's No Heaven

**Psalter Hymnal (Christian Reformed Church):** 10: Why Do You Stand So Far Away, O Lord?; 82: There Where the Judges Gather; 154: Be Just in Judgment, Fair to All; 210: Whatsoever You Do to the Least; 293: What does the Lord Require; 437: Thank You, God, for Water, Soil, and Air

**Catholic Book of Worship III:** 443: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy; 471: Blest Are the Pure in Heart; 472: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise; 473: God Is Love; 481: Be Not Afraid

## Order of Service

### Gathering Music

*If you have people available to play acoustic music, have them play softly while people are gathering. Make sure every participant receives a candle in a candleholder.*

*At 8:30 pm, powerdown! — turn off all lights and any other power-sourced objects in the immediate area.*

**Leader:** Light is all around us. We often do not even realize it until it is gone and we are in darkness. *Leader lights candle.*

Tonight we will celebrate by gentle light. Light that does not lead to the global warming of the planet. Light that does not cause conflict and human rights abuses. Light that will encourage us to reflect on the fact that life is worth more than oil. Let us take some time to pass the light to each other. You may greet each other with a comment such as "for peace," "for courage," or "for justice."

**At this point, the leader passes light from the first candle to members of the congregation, who in turn pass light to their neighbours.**

**Opening Hymn** — See the list of suggested hymns (p. 9) or pick one from another source.

**Reading** — Psalm 46

**Hymn** — See the list of suggested hymns or pick one from another source.

*The Leader will briefly explain the tradition of ¡Presente! litanies. See the explanatory notes on page 8 for more details.*

### A Prayer for the Communion of Saints

**One:** For all the saints who went before us, who have spoken to our hearts, and touched us with your fire...

**All: We praise you O God.**

**One:** For all the people harmed by our addiction to oil and for their courageous resistance to injustice...

**All: We praise you O God.**

**One:** We remember Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight colleagues who were executed in Nigeria for their efforts to protect their Ogoni traditional land.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We remember the 50,000 people who have died in oil-related conflict in Nigeria since 1999.



**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We remember the victims of the war between North and South Sudan, a war that was aided by the presence of a Canadian oil company, Talisman.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We remember the more than 300,000 people who have died in Darfur since 2003, a conflict that is partly caused by climate change and desertification.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We remember all those — civilians and combatants — who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, where oil fuels conflict.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** For all the saints who live beside us, whose weaknesses and strengths are woven into our own...

**All: We praise you O God.**

**One:** We name the Lubicon nation in Alberta, the people of Fort Chipewyan, and all First Nations people in Canada who struggle against resource extraction on their land.

## Opening Prayer

God of all hope;  
hear our prayer.  
When money becomes a prison:  
free us to choose life.  
Where wealth turns into addiction:  
free us to choose life.  
When income determines worth:  
free us to choose life.  
Where poverty equals invisibility:  
free us to choose life.  
When economies deepen injustice:  
free us to choose life.  
Where greed invents new oppressions:  
free us to choose life.  
When finance rules every decision:  
free us to choose life.  
Where consumption replaces compassion:  
free us to choose life.



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Canada 1999, pp. 126-27



**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We name the people of the Arctic, who assert their “right to be cold.”

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We remember all those in Indonesia removed from their land for agrofuel plantations. We name KAIROS partner JATAM, which works to restore justice.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We remember the Cofan population in Ecuador, which has shrunk from 15,000 in 1970 to less than 1,000 today, largely due to the impact of oil extraction on their land. We name KAIROS partner Accion Ecologica, which works to end such exploitation.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** We name KAIROS partner AIMES, the African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society, which works to improve the protection of community rights and the environment in Africa.

**All: ¡Presente!**

**One:** For all the saints who live beyond us, who challenge us to change the world with them.

**All: We praise you O God. Amen.**

Portions of this prayer are taken from *Human Rites*, compiled by Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild (London; Mowbray, 1995).

**Hymn** — See the list of suggested hymns or pick one from another source.

**Reading** — Matthew 5: 1-12

### Reflection

*EITHER ask one person in advance to prepare a reflection on the reading and their understanding of the human rights aspect of “Earth Hour”*

*OR if your group is small, share the reflection time in an informal way.*

### Ritual of Taking Action

*One way to bring this time of reflection into the larger community is to express our concerns to our elected officials. Invite the group to gather together by candlelight and sign the **Re-energize** action cards. See the advance preparation notes (p. 9) for more details on this part of the service.*

**Music** — this could either be instrumental, a solo or choir piece, or a simple well-known hymn where no sheet music is required.

*Invite people to come back to the worship space, bringing their action cards forward to the gathering basket. Ask people to gather back in their seats by the end of the song.*

