

# Ecology and Liturgy

**Convener:** The Rev. Samuel Torvend, OblSB (torvensa@plu.edu) is Faculty Fellow in Humanities, Director of External Relations in the Center for Vocation, and Professor of Religion emeritus at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

**Members in Attendance:** Timothy Brunk, Lisa Dahill, Christopher Grundy, Mary McGann, Lawrence Mick, Gail Ramshaw, Susan Marie Smith, Benjamin Stewart, Samuel Torvend

**Visitors in Attendance:** Jill Maria Murdy, Mathew Verghese, Nancy Wright

**Description of Work:** Seminar members and visitors met in person and online to discuss papers that had been sent to them by the convener in early December. This is a standard practice of the seminar. In addition, members of the seminar offered reports on various projects and resources allied with the work of the seminar: Episcopal liturgical resources honoring God in Creation, a regional conference in the Pacific Northwest supporting a Year of Creation, the establishment of a sacred grove at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, and eco-liturgies celebrated at the Adrian Dominican Sisters Motherhouse in Adrian, Michigan. The semi-nar welcomed members of the Liturgical Language Seminar for a discussion of “Praying Green” with Gail Ramshaw. At the conclusion of the meeting, members discussed papers they hope to prepare for the 2026 meeting in Atlanta.

## Papers and Presentations:

- Benjamin Stewart: “The Event of Creation and Anamnesis.”
- Timothy Brunk: “Liturgy, Ecology, and Consumerism: Liturgical Haecceity in the 21st Century.”
- Lisa Dahill: “Sacramental and Liturgical Eco-Theologies,” a chapter in the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of Ecotheology*.
- Samuel Torvend: “Jesus in the Natural World,” a chapter in his forthcoming *Jesus in Nature: A Monastic Christology*.
- Gail Ramshaw: liturgical texts excerpted from her *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table*.

**Other Work and Plans for the Future:** Members and visitors of the seminar hope to present the following at the Atlanta meeting:

- Timothy Brunk: a syllabus on Children, Liturgy, and Ecology.
- Christopher Grundy: a paper on the Sacred Grove at Eden Seminary.

- Nancy Wright: a paper on the white pine, a keystone species.
- Benjamin Stewart: a paper on the calendar.
- Lisa Dahill: a paper on interspecies communication.
- Samuel Torvend: a paper on reading the Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture.