

# We all play a part

*How long will the land mourn, and the grass of every field wither? For the evil of those who dwell in it the beasts and the birds are swept away. (Jeremiah 12.4, ESV)*

Jeremiah is acknowledging that God has brought a drought on the land as divine chastisement for the faithlessness and wickedness of the people. The people were not loving God or their neighbours.

But we don't need to assign blame to God for the state of the earth today.

According to the Government of Canada website, climate change is one of the most important environmental issues of our time.

It is caused by the increase in concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, primarily due to emissions resulting from human use of fossil fuels.

Climate change causes extreme weather events which affect humans, but also leads to a loss of habitat and loss of biodiversity — indeed, “the beasts and the birds are swept away.”

From 2005 to 2023, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 8.5 per cent, but our target for 2030 is to reduce emissions to 40-45 per cent below 2005 levels. We have some work to do.

The bulk of that may need to be large-scale reductions across industries, but we all need to play a part through the choices we make.

We need to reduce our use of fossil fuels, divest of invest-



ments connected to companies involved in such extraction, and call for and support a transition to cleaner energy sources.

God calls us to act in love – to love God, God's creation, and our neighbours, near and far.

Perhaps Jeremiah would say of us today: For the selfishness, for the greed, for the apathy of those who dwell on this planet, the beasts and the birds are swept away and the vulnerable people perish.

**Individual action:** Use more public transportation or consider an electric or hybrid vehicle when you next purchase; investigate options to improve your home's insulation, install smart thermostats, or move from heating with oil or gas to heat pumps and solar panels.

**Parish action:** Check out **Zero Emissions Churches** (a Canadian Anglican initiative) whose mandate is “to equip congregations and their diocesan leaders with the information they need in order to convert their buildings into zero emitters of greenhouse gases.”

**Resources** (more at [nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp](http://nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp)): [zeroemissionchurches.ca](http://zeroemissionchurches.ca)

**Wikipedia:** Fossil fuel divestment

*Cheryl Jacobs worships at Christ Church Cathedral and is trying to live greener...*