

# EARTH HOUR 2022



**Earth Hour started as a symbolic lights-out event in 2007 and is now a powerful environmental movement for nature and climate.**

**On the last Saturday in March, it starts in Australia and spreads around the world as night takes hold from east to west – all at 8.30 local times. In recent years, iconic buildings in most countries have gone ‘dark’ for the hour eg Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tour, The Houses of Parliament and St. Paul’s Cathedral.**

**The ‘People & Planet’ group at St. Stephen’s marked Earth Hour every year but one from 2011- 2019 with a shared meal, switching out all electric lights at 8.30 for one hour. We have lit candles to share prayers, bible readings and other appropriate texts as well as had periods of silence to reflect on the damage man/woman has done to the planet and consider what we could all do to help prevent further pollution and loss to wildlife. In recent years, we made personal pledges before lights are reluctantly turned on and we conclude with a blessing.**

**This year we’ll be celebrating Earth Hour on Zoom from 8pm. We welcome all to join us, especially families with children.**

## **PREPARATION:**

**We suggest you prepare your evening meal in advance (or even eat it, if kids are with you!). But do have a drink of choice and perhaps some snacks to hand before the lights go out at 8.30.**

**Please also select any reading, poem, song or reflection you'd like to share with us all, or maybe even a picture?**

**If children are with us, we will make sure there is time to hear what they want to do. Suggestions depending on age are:**

- **Parents lay a 'treasure' hunt to carry out with torches in the dark. This could be as simple or elaborate as you like. The Treasure could be anything from looking for a hidden soft toy, to a bag of sweets. Use a room, or the whole house/flat!**
- **Share a story in the dark. Or for readers, tell us the story!**
- **Make a mask by torch and show us all when the lights come on again**
- **Make a 'den' in the dark eg a blanket over a table with some snacks to enjoy**
- **Pass round covered fragrant objects to guess what they are in the dark.**

**Talk to your family in advance and make sure you have any necessary materials you will need, before 8.30**

**Put up an Earth Hour poster (attached) in your window a day or so before or morning of Earth Hour.**

**Light a candle in your front window before 8.30pm – BUT DON'T FORGET TO BLOW IT OUT AT 9.30!**

**[www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)**

### **Rough Program for the Evening**

**8pm Join Zoom (code will be sent nearer the day). Welcome!**

**Share any plans for what we're doing eg any poems etc to share later; any activities families may be doing with kids etc.**

## **ELECRIC LIGHTS OUT AT 8.30pm.**

- 1. Light candles BUT BE AWARE OF FIRE RISKS, especially if young children are present. Tea lights in jam jars are safer than tall dinner candles that could get knocked over.**
- 2. Short video followed by Reading of the Creation Story from Genesis Chapter 1, and importantly, Chapter 2 Verse 15, where God takes Adam aside and tells him to ‘work the Garden of Eden and TAKE CARE of it’.**
- 3. PRAYER OF THANKS for the beautiful world we have been given by God:  
The world belongs to God, the earth and all its people.  
How good and how lovely it is to live together in unity.  
Love and Faith come together, justice and peace join hands.  
If the Lord’s disciples keep silent, these stones would shout aloud.  
Open our lips O God, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise! *(from the Iona community Worship Book)***
- 4. CONFESSION:  
O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches - OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE  
O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals and plastics - OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE  
O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants - OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE  
O God, your creatures are slowly dying, and your people are suffering - OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE  
God our Maker, so move us with the wonder of creation  
THAT WE REPENT AND CARE MORE DEEPLY  
So, move us to grieve the loss of life,  
THAT WE LEARN TO CHERISH AND PROTECT YOUR WORLD. *(The Iona Community Worship Book)***
- 5. SHARING of poems, songs readings and reflections.**

- 6. SHOWING AND TELLING** of any activity children have engaged in – if they want to share! The treasure they've found, the mask they've made, the story they've read etc
- 7. REFLECT and CONSIDER A PERSONAL PLEDGE OR PROMISE TO KEEP** - even a small change in behaviour can make a big difference so make it realistic and doable. You might want to write down any promise you make, to remind yourself in the coming days.

**Ideas from WWF this year include:**

- **Change what you eat**
- **Waste less food**
- **Travel responsibly**
- **Eliminate Plastics**
- **Save water**
- **Be energy efficient**
- **Protect Natural Spaces**
- **Be a conscious consumer**
- **Spread the word**
- **Stay informed**

**8. FINISH with a PRAYER of BLESSING at 9.30pm**

**May the angels of light glisten for us this day.**

**May the sparks of God's beauty dance in the eyes of those we love**

**May the universe be on fire with Presence for us this day.**

**May the new sun's rising grace us with gratitude.**

**Let earth's greenness shine and its waters breathe with Spirit.**

**Let Heaven's winds stir the soil of our soul and fresh awakenings  
rise within us.**

**May the almighty angels of light glisten in all things this day.**

**May they summon us to reverence, may they call us to life.**

**AMEN.**

*(from Praying with the Earth, John Philip Newell, Church of Scotland Minister and former Warden of Iona Abbey)*

**You may want to finish by sharing or saying the Grace, before you...**

**TURN THE LIGHTS BACK ON**

**Do share any pictures or stories of what you did!**

**POSTER ON NEXT PAGE – or make your own!**



**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**8.30 – 9.30pm**

**TURN OUT  
LIGHTS!**

**SPEAK UP FOR NATURE**