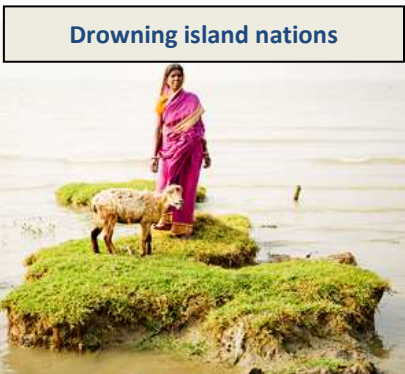




**Climate change is one of the most critical environmental issues facing us today. It is critical that we pay attention.**

**The Congregational Gathering calls us to “live sustainably, and to use our resources creatively for the promotion of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.”**

*(Congregational Calls)*



**Marshallese poet, Kathy Jetnii-Kijiner**



“I want to bring my people’s message out to the world, that climate change is a threat that we need to take more seriously.”

*At the climate summit in September 2014.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4fdxXo4tnY>

- **Share stories of how people and living beings are affected in your local area.**
- **What good practices are happening in your area and in your ministry, enhancing the planet instead of destroying it?**

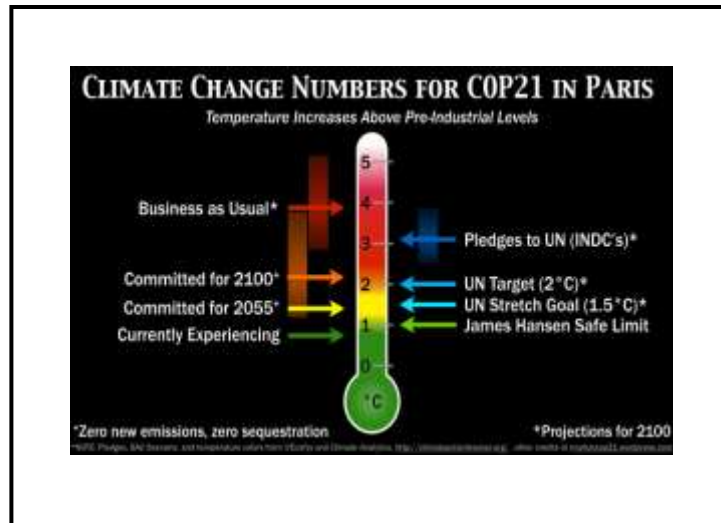


**People of our world are awakening to a new consciousness**

Since Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, leaders from all faiths have shared their support for "swift and unified global action" against climate change.

Pope Francis' Encyclical and the [Lambeth Declaration](#) caused a great stir and the [Islamic Declaration on Climate Change](#) made history in August 2015.

The Paris summit focused on the adoption of measures that would limit global warming to less than catastrophic levels. If it fails, world temperatures in the coming decades are likely to exceed 2 degrees Celsius (3.5 degrees Fahrenheit), the [maximum amount](#) most scientists believe the Earth can endure without experiencing irreversible climate shocks, including [soaring temperatures](#) and a [substantial rise](#) in global sea levels. unchecked climate change will [result in](#) severe droughts, oppressive heat, storms, waves, recurring crop failures, and coastal to widespread death. The IPCC report suggested that global warming would have of a [social and](#) devastating impacts [political](#) nature as well, including economic decline, state collapse, civil strife, mass migrations, and sooner or later [resource wars](#). effects of climate change with already existing poverty, hunger, resource scarcity, incompetent and corrupt governance, and ethnic, religious, or national resentments, and you're likely to end up with bitter conflicts over access to food, water, land, and other necessities of life.



Climate change will [degrade or destroy](#) many [natural systems](#), often already under stress, on which humans rely for their survival. Some areas that now support agriculture or animal husbandry may become uninhabitable or capable only of providing for greatly diminished populations. Under the pressure of rising temperatures and increasingly fierce droughts, the southern fringe of the Sahara desert, for example, is now being [transformed](#) from grasslands capable of sustaining nomadic herders into an empty wasteland, forcing local nomads off their ancestral lands. Many existing farmlands in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East will suffer a similar fate. Rivers that once supplied water year-round will run only sporadically or [dry up](#) altogether, again leaving populations with unpalatable choices.

**What did you do, once you knew?**  
*By Drew Dellinger.*  
*It is 03.23 hours in the morning, and I am awake,  
 Because my great, great grand-children won't let me  
 sleep. My great, great, grand-children ask me in dreams*  
*What did you do while the planet was plundered?  
 What did you do when the Earth was unravelling?  
 Surely you did something, when the seasons started  
 failing, as the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying.  
 Did you fill the street with protest when democracy  
 was stolen?*  
*What did you do, once you knew?*

**An exercise:**  
 You are a great, great,  
 grandmother/father in 2016.  
 You respond to your great, great  
 grand-child to be born in 2070 -  
 What did you do to protect the  
 planet in your times?

**Universe's Daughter**  
 Reflective song  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88h0zfwzz90>

Words for song referenced in Goal 13:

## **UNIVERSE'S DUGHTER**

In the silent world of space  
Like a jewel of priceless worth  
Glowing green and shining blue  
Slowly turns the planet earth.  
In her swirling cloak of cloud  
Miracle of land and water,  
Oh, born of fire and of time  
To the Universe a daughter.  
Long the years and vast the time,  
Day to night to day returning  
Slowly, slowly life arrives  
So begins the planet's birthing.  
Flowers, creatures, birds and trees  
Rich variety delights her.  
Oh, in the space beyond the stars,  
Can there be another like her?  
People living on the earth  
Have forgotten how to wonder,  
Lost in speed and blind despair,  
Hopelessly pollute and plunder.  
But there comes a sound of hope!  
Can you hear the children's voices?  
Oh, we will keep the earth alive  
By our love and by our choices!

*Faye White*