

Groaning and Hoping Together

Romans 8:19-23



"From beginning to end, Scripture reveals God to us as the one who always comes close, even comes within, to feed, heal, forgive, befriend and reconcile the whole of creaturely life. The Christian drama does not end with people's souls escaping earth to be with God somewhere "beyond the blue." It ends with God descending to earth to dwell among mortals forever (Revelation 21:1-4). What sort of homecoming are we preparing for God?"

—Norman Wirzba, theologian and author of *This Sacred Life: Humanity's Place in a Wounded World*

"We have lived by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world...We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us. We must recover the sense of the majesty of the creation and the ability to be worshipful in its presence. For it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it."

—Wendell Berry, *The Long-Legged House*

In the New Creation, God sets everything right. That project is already underway and the church plays a vital role in it. Our vocation as image-bearers remains. We are called to belief, not to be saved from this world but to join God's work of renewing and redeeming it.

— from N.T. Wright, [admirato.org](https://www.admirato.org) 5 *Biblical Themes that Explain N.T. Wright's Theology*

Creation Care and Emmanuel—Let's Take this Forward!

Thanks to all who helped get this Season of Creation series off the ground, especially to Pastor David, who gave an enthusiastic thumbs up and led us all through a wonderful sermon series in consideration of what the Bible and our traditions have to say about this important topic.

We members and staff who got involved propose to set up an on going 'green team' to keep creation care part of what we do at Emmanuel. If you are interested in joining us sign up at the table in the coffee area!

Climate Adaptation Resources

It is undeniable that average temperatures have increased, drought and floods are more intense, and wildfires more ferocious. Our neighborhoods and communities will increasingly need to adapt to these new realities.

Home hardening: making one's—and one's neighbor's— house more protected from wildfires, is just one adaptation strategy that's especially pertinent here in the Conejo Valley. It can be quite low-cost and easy to do the most important things, like screening crawl space vents to prevent ember intrusion. And here's a really cool thing: herd immunity. If your home is hardened from embers, your home helps your neighbor's home to survive.

Enough homes hardened in a neighborhood can help keep a conflagration spreading from house to house as has happened recently in Los Angeles and Altadena.

The agencies and non-profits in the boxed text have tons of information online about wildfire adaptation and preparation. Some are happy to come out to your home for free and give you specific recommendations. If you live in a multi-family development this might be a way to meet your neighbors, working together to harden your neighborhood. Talk to Bob Steenberge for more information and research.

Together, we can make a difference and care for each other!

Cal Fire <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/> For overall information on wildfire preparation. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening> part of Cal Fire, gives you a comprehensive self-assessment process for hardening your home.

Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council <https://venturafiresafe.org/home-fire-assessment> will come out to give you a free home fire assessment. The home webpage here has links to great home hardening info.

Ready Ventura County ready.venturacounty.gov Another comprehensive website about home hardening and emergency preparedness.