

## Scripture Suggestions for Green Energy Day

### Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-2:4a or 2:4b-23 – creation stories. For the theme of celebrating creation, the first one is probably better because it has more details about the entire creation, and of course the emphasis on goodness. However, the second one emphasizes the nurturing role that humankind should take towards creation.

Job 38:1-39:30 – emphasis on God’s creative power. This one is good because it also emphasizes the powerlessness of humanity in comparison to God’s power.

### Psalms

Psalm 19, especially verses 1-6, which focus on the praise of God from the heavens

Psalm 24:1-2 – these might be good ones for the cover of the bulletin

Psalm 65 – a psalm of thanksgiving for the bounty of the earth

Psalm 96 – a psalm of praise to God, with creation also praising God

Psalm 104 – somewhat similar to the Job passages, it extols God’s creative work throughout the earth

Psalm 148 – another praise psalm calling creation to praise God

### New Testament

Luke 12:22-34 – God’s care for creation and for us should keep us from worrying. Store up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34 is a parallel passage)

John 1:1-5 – creation of the world through the Word, a good match to the Genesis 1 passage

John 3:16-17 – a familiar one that people sometimes miss. “For God so loved the *world...*”

Romans 8:18-25 – creation, as well as humanity, suffers and lies in wait for redemption from God, with hope and patience

**Below are the full scripture passages from the NRSV**

### Genesis 1:1-2:4a

*1* In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, *2* the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

**3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**6** And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. **8** God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

**9** And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

**14** And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. **16** God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. **17** God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

**20** And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." **21** So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. **22** God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **23** And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

**24** And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. **25** God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**26** Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." **27** So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **28** God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

**29** God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the

earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

**31** God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**1** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. **2** And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. **3** So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. **4** These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

### **Genesis 2:4b-23**

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, **5** when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; **6** but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— **7** then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

**8** And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. **9** Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **10** A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. **11** The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; **12** and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. **13** The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. **14** The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. **15** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

**16** And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

**18** Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." **19** So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

**21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

### **Job 38:1-39:30**

**1** Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: **2** "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? **3** Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

**4** "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. **5** Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? **6** On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone **7** when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? **8** "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— **9** when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, **10** and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, **11** and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?

**12** "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, **13** so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? **14** It is changed like clay under the seal, and it is dyed like a garment. **15** Light is withheld from the wicked, and their uplifted arm is broken. **16** "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? **17** Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? **18** Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. **19** "Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, **20** that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? **21** Surely you know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! **22** "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, **23** which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? **24** What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

**25** "Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, **26** to bring rain on a land where no one lives, on the desert, which is empty of human life, **27** to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground put forth grass? **28** "Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? **29** From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven? **30** The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. **31** "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? **32** Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? **33** Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? **34** "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? **35** Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, "Here we are'? **36** Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? **37** Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, **38** when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? **39** "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, **40** when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? **41** Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

**1** "Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? **2** Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, **3** when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of

their young? **4** Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. **5** "Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, **6** to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling place? **7** It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. **8** It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. **9** "Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? **10** Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? **11** Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labor to it? **12** Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing floor?

**13** "The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. **14** For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, **15** forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. **16** It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labor should be in vain, yet it has no fear; **17** because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. **18** When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

**19** "Do you give the horse its might? Do you clothe its neck with mane? **20** Do you make it leap like the locust? Its majestic snorting is terrible. **21** It paws violently, exults mightily; it goes out to meet the weapons. **22** It laughs at fear, and is not dismayed; it does not turn back from the sword. **23** Upon it rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, and the javelin. **24** With fierceness and rage it swallows the ground; it cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet. **25** When the trumpet sounds, it says "Aha!" From a distance it smells the battle, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

**26** "Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? **27** Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high? **28** It lives on the rock and makes its home in the fastness of the rocky crag. **29** From there it spies the prey; its eyes see it from far away. **30** Its young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there it is."

### **Psalm 19**

**1** The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
**2** Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
**3** There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
**4** yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
**5** which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
**6** Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
8 the precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;  
9 the fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.  
10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
12 But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.  
13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

#### **Psalm 24:1-2**

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;  
2 for he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.

#### **Psalm 65**

1 Praise is due to you,  
O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
2 O you who answer prayer!  
To you all flesh shall come.  
3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.  
4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.

**5** By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.

**6** By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.

**7** You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.

**8** Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

**9** You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

**10** You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.

**11** You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**12** The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

**13** the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

### **Psalm 96**

**1** O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**2** Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**3** Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**4** For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.

**5** For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

**6** Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**7** Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

- ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 8** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- 9** Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10** Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- 12** let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- 13** before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

#### **Psalm 104**

- 1** Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
- 2** wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
- 3** you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,  
you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind,
- 4** you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.
- 5** You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.
- 6** You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.
- 7** At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
- 8** They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys  
to the place that you appointed for them.
- 9** You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.
- 10** You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,
- 11** giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 12** By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;

- they sing among the branches.
- 13** From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
- 14** You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,  
to bring forth food from the earth,
- 15** and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
- 16** The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- 17** In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
- 18** The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.
- 19** You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows its time for setting.
- 20** You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
- 21** The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.
- 22** When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.
- 23** People go out to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.
- 24** O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 25** Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.
- 26** There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
- 27** These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;
- 28** when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- 29** When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.
- 30** When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.

**31** May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
    may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
**32** who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
    who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
**33** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
    I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
**34** May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
    for I rejoice in the Lord.  
**35** Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
    and let the wicked be no more.  
    Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
    Praise the Lord!

**Psalm 148**

**1** Praise the Lord!  
    Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
    praise him in the heights!  
**2** Praise him, all his angels;  
    praise him, all his host!

**3** Praise him, sun and moon;  
    praise him, all you shining stars!  
**4** Praise him, you highest heavens,  
    and you waters above the heavens!

**5** Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
    for he commanded and they were created.  
**6** He established them forever and ever;  
    he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**7** Praise the Lord from the earth,  
    you sea monsters and all deeps,  
**8** fire and hail, snow and frost,  
    stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**9** Mountains and all hills,  
    fruit trees and all cedars!  
**10** Wild animals and all cattle,  
    creeping things and flying birds!

**11** Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
    princes and all rulers of the earth!  
**12** Young men and women alike,  
    old and young together!

**13** Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
**14** He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!

### **Luke 12:22-34**

**22** He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. **23** For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! **25** And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? **26** If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. **28** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! **29** And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. **30** For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. **32** "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34**

**19** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; **20** but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**25** "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? **28** And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" **32** For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** "So do

not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

### **John 1:1-5**

*1* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. *2* He was in the beginning with God. *3* All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being *4* in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. *5* The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

### **Romans 8:18-25**

*18* I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. *19* For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; *20* for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope *21* that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. *22* We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; *23* and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. *24* For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? *25* But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **John 3:16-17**

*16* For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *17* "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.