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6th March 24

Ahead of International Women's Day, nine reasons why women are key to solving the climate crisis:

1. Women are the most impacted by the effects of climate change
2. Women are proven better leaders in times of crisis
3. Women are and have been strong environmental organizers
4. Women in power improve society
5. Women turn their innate knowledge into action
6. Women excel in the economy
7. Women and the world need equality
8. Women created the framework to limit global temperature rise
9. Women are already solving the climate crisis

Not convinced? Read the research and the full article from One Earth, a US nonprofit organization working to accelerate collective action to solve the climate crisis
<https://www.oneearth.org/why-women-are-key-to-solving-the-climate-crisis/>

A prayer of thanksgiving, from Christian Aid

God of all time,
We give thanks for women
Past and present, far and near
Who turn the soil, sow the seeds
And reap a harvest of community.
May they be an example to us.

13th March 24

St Patrick's Breastplate



*I arise today with:
The strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon
The splendour of fire,
The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The firmness of rock.*

*I arise today with:
God's strength to lead me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to watch over me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me.*

Abbreviated version from [daily-prayers.org](https://www.daily-prayers.org)

Based on the translation from Kuno Meyer, and the early translation from the Liber Hymnorum.

<https://www.bartleby.com/lit-hub/anthology-of-irish-verse/49-st-patricks-breastplate/>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Kuno-Meyer>

20th March 24



St Stephen's Green – March 2024

A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

- Robert Frost

Published in A Boy's Will (Henry Holt and Company, 1915).

27th March 24

EASTER AND THE ENVIRONMENT: THE CALL FOR SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Article shared by Richard Mathews, a consultant, writer, researcher, journalist, and change activist, who has contributed to reports for policymakers, including a United Nations Environment Program publication.

The symbolism of Easter offers an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the natural world and the shift of consciousness required for the survival of life on this planet. If we are to find a way forward we will need to address climate change and environmental degradation. To alter our perilous trajectory we need to assume responsibility for the state of our world. Science alone will not take us where we need to go. We need a spiritual and cultural transformation that will enable us to address the wide range of human activities that are destroying the Earth's ecosystems.

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy...to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation – and we scientists don't know how to do that."– Environmental advocate James Speth.

The egg is a prominent symbol of Easter and a fitting metaphor for the Earth. An egg symbolizes both fragility and the promise of new life. However, Easter is more than just a festival celebrating the return of spring. As a Christian event, Easter calls us to remember the cycles of renewal and the interconnectedness of life and death.

For Christians, Easter is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, the ultimate symbol of rebirth. Easter's known pagan origins date back to the 8th century, specifically an Anglo-Saxon fertility goddess known as "Eostre," whose name may be derived from "eastre," meaning spring.

Easter eggs are rooted in Celtic and Teutonic pagan traditions. Eggs are directly associated with springtime festivals in many older texts and narratives. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Judaism celebrates Passover around this time of year and it commemorates the Hebrews' escape from Egyptian enslavement. This is metaphorically relevant to ecology as a symbol of freedom from the bondage of environmental destruction.

From Judeo-Christian and pagan perspectives Easter symbolizes renewal and this is precisely what is required as we engage the serious work of being better environmental stewards. With so

many around the world seeking to renew our relationship to the Earth, Easter is particularly relevant in modern times.

Easter is an opportunity to reconsider our relationship to this planet, and a good time to reflect on the truly transformational work that lies ahead. Easter is also an aspirational homage to the possibility that we can live in harmony with our environment.

www.changeoracle.com