

Musical and Spoken Reflections

24 Hours: 350 Inspirations

(International Day of Climate Action on October 24, 2009)

A sermon by the Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann

November 25, 2009

Unitarian Church of Marlboro and Hudson, Hudson, Massachusetts

Speaker 1:

6:29 a.m., sunrise in Wellington, New Zealand, Oct. 24 (which was still Friday to us) the beginning of this extraordinary day of environmental activism was marked underneath a wind turbine on a mountaintop. To get the day started, Maori elders said prayers to bless the events.

Also in New Zealand, Pacific Islanders & Oxfam volunteers waded into the ocean to a gigantic clothesline, removed their t-shirts and hung them up on the line. Each of 350 t-shirts bore the name of a different island that is threatened by rising sea levels. The final shirt was hung up by a 9 year old Samoan girl named Jane, who read a poem she wrote about climate change, her future, and the 350 Pacific Islands that have been "hung out to dry."

Speaker 2:

The events of the day went to the tops of mountains around the world. On the peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in Kenya, where the glaciers are disappearing quickly, a team took a photograph with the caption: "It's not supposed to look like this." There is no snow to be seen in the photo.

In Afghanistan, Afghan youth created a 500 square meter message reading "Save our world – Afghan youth for 350," written in chalk on the slopes of Paghman Mountain, mother of the Kabul River.

In Nepal, an Indian mountain climbing expedition set out to bring a 350 banner to the top of the world, the summit of Mt. Everest.

Speaker 3:

350 events also travelled to the oceans of the world.

In the Maldives, scuba divers maintained a 24-hour underwater demonstration. Also in the Maldives, on Oct. 17 the government cabinet held an underwater meeting in scuba gear on a damaged coral reef to pass a climate resolution.

In Australia, scuba divers brought a 350 banner to the Great Barrier Reef.

College undergraduates, professional mariners, scientists and professors from the Sea Education Association traveled by boat to the most remote parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to sail a course in the shape of the number 350 that was 350 square nautical meters large.

Members of the environmental group Greenpeace went scuba diving to the sunken Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior, with a banner that declared, "350 – or we're all sunk."

In Oman, divers took pictures of the coral reefs off of Oman and compared them with pictures taken in the past to show how climate change is impacting coral reefs.

Speaker 1:

350 events were held at national landmarks, palaces and pilgrimage sites.

In Russia, activists gathered at Lake Baikal in Siberia. Lake Baikal is the world's deepest lake, as well as the oldest, some 25,000,000 years old, pre-dating the emergence of humans. It contains 20% of the world's fresh water and is home to at least 2,500 plant and animal species.

In Iraq people gathered in front of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the ancient seven wonders of the world.

In Nepal, a candle lighting event was held at the Buddhist pilgrimage site of Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha.

Music: *Honor the Earth* by Molly Scott

Speaker 2:

350 events were educational.

In Costa Rica a slideshow was put together with 350 images of organisms and ecosystems affected by climate change.

In Rwanda, members of the Rwanda University Club for Conservation of Biodiversity made academic presentations related to climate change in Rwanda and how to combat it.

Similarly, in Cuba a delegation from the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network traveled by train, bicycle and on foot for a week visiting 5 universities to educate young adults on the impacts of climate change.

In Alberta, Canada, elementary students created a hopscotch board 350 squares long, writing climate change facts and tips for greener living every 25th square.

Speaker 3:

350 events were political in nature. Everything about 350 was designed for maximum publicity and with the intention of showing world leaders that the people of the Earth want strong legislation to protect our planet and our future.

In Poland, activists gathered in front of the King's Castle in Warsaw and collected signatures on postcards for the prime minister demanding ambitious climate legislation.

In Turkey, members of the 350 Ankara Movement bicycled to the parliament building and invited members of parliament to join them in demonstrations at a nearby park.

In Ethiopia, over 15,000 people marched for climate change in Addis Ababa.

In Finland, pamphlets about climate change were handed out along with free hugs to passersby.

In Concord, Massachusetts, environmentalists gathered at the Old North Bridge, site of the American Revolution, to create a "shout heard round the world," "Energy Revolution Now!"

Speaker 1:

350 events were fun & creative!

In Portland Oregon, 350 (or more) Portlanders gathered at microbreweries to drink a pint of their favorite microbrew at 3:50 p.m.

Mexicans living in Sidney, Australia held a green barbecue in honor of Ignacio's birthday! (Can't tell you who Ignacio is – but happy birthday!)

In Toronto, Canada, cartoonists channeled the theme of climate change and the number 350 in cartoon images.

In Vancouver, a dance party included the performance of a salsa dance in the shape of the number "350."

In France, activists ate soup for the Earth, enjoying soups made from local and seasonal foods. Also in France, a teacher led her class in 350 jumping jacks.

In Soweto, South Africa, environmentalists enjoyed 350 bungee jumps from the cooling towers of a defunct coal-fired power station.

In Tokyo, Japan, a BBQ was held at which people experimented with solar cookers, while in Zhuhai, China, people created pictures related to climate change in the Green Room art workshop.

Music: *Rising Green*

Speaker 2:

350 events were about healing our Earth and caring for her creatures.

In Iran people walked and cleaned up trash from the entrance of the AboBargh mountains.

Thousands of trees were planted around the world, often in groups of 350, from Haiti, to Thailand, to Indonesia, to the Mukuru slums of Nairobi, Kenya, to the 350 mangrove trees planted in Madagascar to help stabilize sediment and provide habitat for fish, shellfish and crustaceans.

In the Philippines, which has been hit severely by flash floods and storms, one hectare of denuded land was planted with trees, which will help prevent erosion by creating a natural watershed. This is the first hectare of a planned 50, which will ultimately be planted with 35,000 trees.

Speaker 3:

All around the world, human chains created the number 350.

In Algeria, 900 children ages 10 and up gathered to write the numerals 350 with their bodies.

On the banks of the shrinking Dead Sea, Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelites gathered on their respective beaches to spell out the number 350 together.

People in Denmark, India and New Zealand worked together, creating a huge human 3 in New Zealand, a 5 in India, and a 0 in Denmark.

Speaker 1:

350 events were reflective and spiritually oriented.

Drummers gathered at Maroubra Beach in Sydney, Australia to drum energy to Mother Earth.

In Tasmania, a procession of people walked in silence by candlelight, carrying with them symbols of what they find most precious in their lives. These symbols were laid down on the grass in a park, where the number 350 was created by candles.

In India, 350 children of poor farmers who have lost their jobs because of repeated droughts, gathered to light 350 candles.

In Jewish synagogues around the world people gathered for their Sabbath services to hear the story of Noah and consider its implications for our relationship to the Earth, including the hope it offers in the lines: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will not cease."

All around the globe, yoga, meditations, masses and church worship services focused on caring for the Earth. Church bells rang out again and again 350 times throughout the day -- from Australia to Canada, everywhere in between, and right here in this very church.

Music: *350* by Fred Small

Speaker 1: The day has ended. But not the momentum. This morning our church bell rang 350 times and we will continue to ring it on Sunday mornings in upcoming months. The world's people have risen up and the world will change. I invite you to jump in wholeheartedly, to make difficult decisions and sacrifices as we seek to transform our lifestyles and restore

balance in our living, and to rejoice in the knowledge that your actions, your hopes, your dreams for a healthy climate and planet are shared by men & women, children and youth in all corners of the Earth. The world's people have risen up and the world will change.

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