



SEASON OF CREATION

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An Eastern Christian Point of View on the Season of Creation

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish” Proverbs 29:18

The ecological vision of the Eastern Church is grounded in the Biblical and Patristic understanding of the interrelation and reciprocity outlined in the five main points below:

- 1) Creation is an ecological order involving unity, diversity, interdependence, hierarchy, and harmony.
- 2) Human nature is both integrally part of the order of creation, and at the same time, there is something in our nature - our Divine image – that transcends the created order, making us both responsible for creation as priests and stewards and dependent upon it in our kinship with all life.
- 3) The nature of the relationship of human nature with the order of nature is one of dynamic reciprocity; that is, what humans are and what humans do is central to sustaining or the destruction of order and harmony in nature.
- 4) Metanoia – change of heart followed by a change of life is key to all earth keeping and care for creation. If human nature is integral to the order of nature, then disorder in nature can be restored only by order in human beings.
- 5) The human energy that creates, sustains, and restores order in nature is the energy of sacrificial love, grounded in *asceticism* – self-discipline.