

PARLIAMENT OF THE
WORLD'S RELIGIONS,
AUGUST 18TH 2023

ANIMALS AS OUR NEIGHBORS: INCLUDING ALL OF CREATION IN MINISTRY

Aline Silva, Executive Director | she, her

Megan Grigorian, Campaign and Events Manager | she, her



**CREATURE
KIND**

for Animals, Peoples and the Earth

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WORLD'S RELIGIONS,
AUGUST 18TH 2023

ALINE & PAÇOCA

Aline Silva, Executive Director | she, her
ah-lee-nee
pah-saw-kah

MEGAN

Megan Grigorian, Campaign and
Events Manager | she, her



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CREATUREKIND'S MISSION

...is to advance collective liberation — for animals, peoples, and the earth — with a special focus on farmed animals and food systems. We encourage and equip Christians to embody the interdependence of God's whole Creation by creating educational and worship resources, and curating sacred spaces for spiritual formation, leadership development, and community change-making.



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CREATUREKIND ENVISIONS

...a world that affirms all creatures as beloved and valuable, just as they are seen by the Creator. We envision a world where followers of Jesus live in deep connection, increasing curiosity, and mutual relationship with fellow creatures. We envision those currently on the margins being centered, fully able to exist with self determination and radical belonging. We envision a Church that partners with the Creator and all of Creation to dismantle oppression for humans, non-humans, and the earth. We envision a diverse community of resistance where love, joy, and compassionate action abound as we anticipate the peaceable kin_dom of God.



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How are animals [farmed] in our food systems related to defending freedom and human rights?



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**How are animals
[farmed] in our food
systems related to
defending freedom
and human rights?**

Our food choices can be a call to conscience, in small and large ways, towards dismantling systems of inequality, injustice, and destruction for all of creation—human and nonhuman—while we build a more sustainable and just food system.

Animal liberation and human liberation are tied up together.



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TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- 1. Aline**  How are human liberation and animal liberation interconnected
- 2. Q&A**
- 3. Megan**  Practical Application to Include all Creation in Ministry
- 4. Closing**  What's next? Sharing resources as we move forward



Workshop Summary:

As Christians walking a path towards peace and justice, how we feed our communities while caring for animals farmed for food, people, and the Earth is an essential part of ministry for liberation. Our work teaches and empowers Christians, and anyone working in and with religious communities, how to include the welfare of all of Creation as we work towards collective liberation by dismantling white supremacy and capitalism in our food systems.



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In this workshop, we will discuss the urgency of addressing what's happening in our foodways—including the suffering of animals, displacing of Indigenous peoples, the public health of communities, and more. We'll cover why it's a moral imperative for religious communities to take action, by using simple and inclusive frameworks towards interconnectedness in creating a more peaceful and just world.



A CALL TO CONSCIENCE:
Defending Freedom
& Human Rights
AUGUST 14-18, 2023 | MADONNA PLAZA



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Ada Maria Isasi-Dias, understands that the fullness of life as God intends and promises cannot be obtained through the oppression of others and that a biblical paradise brings **all** into the fold of God's family.



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**NO SUSTAINABLE CHANGE
CAN HAPPEN FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS OR FREEDOM
UNLESS WE ARE
DISMANTLING OPPRESSION
ON EVERY LEVEL OF THE
CREATURELY EXPERIENCE**

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CONNECTING TO ANIMAL ISSUES

what comes to your mind when you hear the terms, "farming of animals," "animals farmed as food," or "industrial agriculture"



CONNECTING TO ANIMAL ISSUES

What does it look like?

Who makes up the picture?

Where do they gather?



Duvan Perez. PHOTO: DUVAN PEREZ FACEBOOK

HUMAN RIGHTS AND WELFARE IN OUR FOOD SYSTEMS

our current food systems
disproportionately harm
migrant communities, Black
and Indigenous peoples, and
the impoverished and
marginalized in the US and
abroad

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND WELFARE: FOOD SYSTEMS

- turn over rates in slaughter houses, factory farms, and other food plants is 100%
- "ICE Arrests Targeting Migrant Workers" by Miriam Jordan
- Prison Factory Farms
- Food insecurity: most food producers and handlers are unable to afford or access the foods they produce
- "The suicide rate for farmers is more than double that of veterans,"
The Guardian



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**MANUEL TERAN
(TORTUGUITA)**



Mapping prison sales across the public sector

The following represents a sample of select transactions between prisons and state institutions.

Arkansas prisons sell surplus eggs to Oklahoma prisons. The Oklahoma Department of Corrections paid \$0.59 per dozen in April 2016, about 26 cents less than the wholesale average at the time.




1

Food factories staffed by incarcerated people in California sell products to publicly funded institutions like veterans' homes and state hospitals. Sales to customers outside the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation totaled \$10.7 million from 2018 through 2020.




2

The biggest buyer of food produced in Georgia prisons is Aramark, totaling more than \$2 million in 2019 and 2020. Aramark is a food service provider for the Georgia Department of Corrections—and many other prisons and universities across the nation—and is contractually obligated to source the food it serves in prisons from Georgia Correctional Industries.




3

Meat processed by incarcerated people in Maryland is sold to the Maryland School for the Deaf, among other institutions.

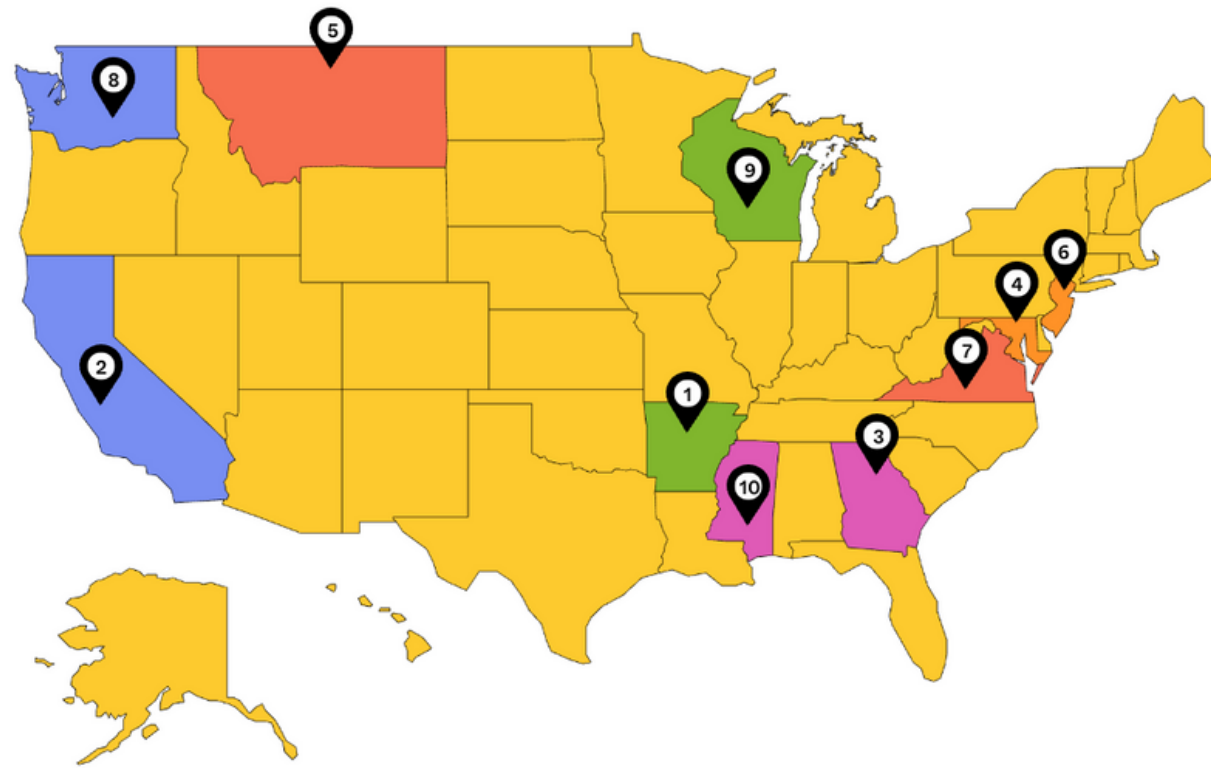


4


Montana Correctional Enterprises runs a food factory that sends meals to the state psychiatric hospital.



5




New Jersey's prison bakery operation sells blueberry donuts, vanilla cupcakes, and hot dog rolls to eligible buyers, which include government agencies and public schools.



6

Virginia Tech serves milk processed in state prisons on campus. In recent years, the state's Department of Corrections has also sold food to one county's elementary, middle, and high schools; a Baptist church; and a Boy Scout camp.




7

Washington State Correctional Industries reported \$49 million in burrito sales between 2018 and 2020.



8

In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, Wisconsin's Bureau of Correctional Enterprises sold \$134,626 in raw cream to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Babcock Dairy Store for ice cream.



9

Mississippi Prison Agriculture Enterprise is a landlord, leasing nearly 8,000 acres of farmland in two counties at an average of \$88.04 per acre.



10

Source: Public records obtained by The Counter

Credit: Talia Moore | Icons via The Noun Project/iconixar,

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Herschel Walker's chicken firm tied to benefits from unpaid prison labor

PBR News Hour

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If Factory Farms are sourcing cheap labor from prisons, actively evading human rights, polluting our shared earth, causing insurmountable suffering to animals and peoples, then what is a Christian ethical response?





**THE FARMING OF
ANIMALS HAS
CHANGED THE
EARTH**

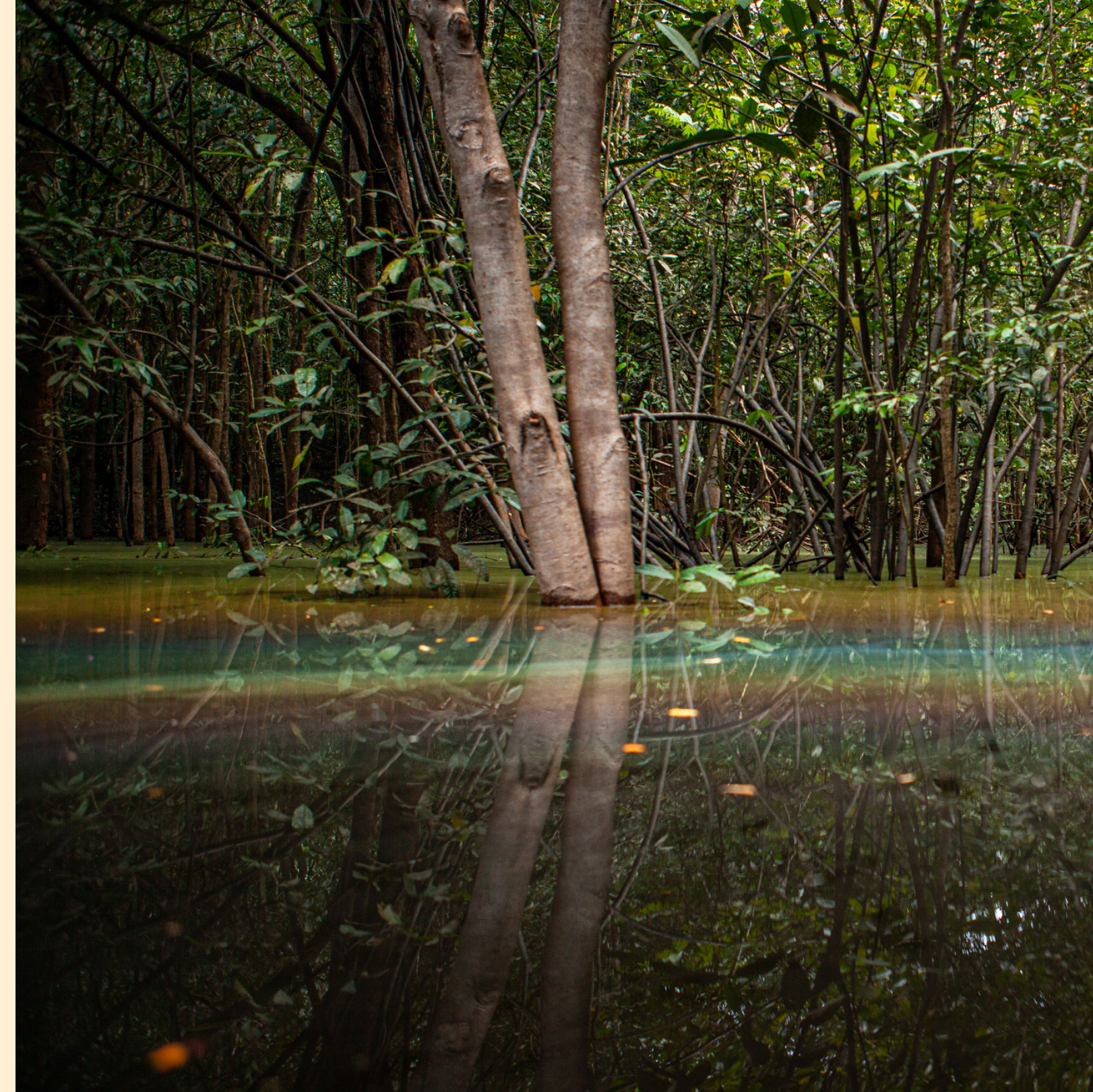


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Brazil is the world's second-largest livestock producer, behind only the United States. The 2022 Food and Agriculture Report of the United Nations (referred to as FAO report) forecasts that Brazil will soon become the largest exporter of cattle, surpassing even the US (FAO 2022). Livestock production generates significant profit for agribusiness at a very high cost for non-humans and all Brazilians, especially for the most marginalized populations and Indigenous peoples. The earth itself also pays the price. For instance, the desecration and devastation of the Amazon rainforest are caused by profitable industries — logging, mining, cattle grazing, and ranching, which have all become weapons of mass destruction.

BRAZIL



AUSTRALIA

“ —

The work of colonisation is always a multispecies affair but infrequently recognised as such. The [current] climate crisis is sedimented into the colonisation of the region by white invaders and the animals they/we brought here.

— ”

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey in **Cattle and colonialism: the animals that built Sydney**, published 8 FEBRUARY 2022 on [The Architectural Review](#)

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AUSTRALIA



Our wide brown land
Environment

Scorched country: the destruction of Australia's native landscape

A photograph of a dry, open landscape. In the foreground, there is a single, small tree. Two cows are standing near the tree. The ground is dry and brown. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Michael Slezak
@MikeySlezak
Tue 6 Mar 2018 12:00 EST

f t e 441

The Guardian

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Scorched country: the destruction of Australia's native landscape

Michael Slezak

DISPLACEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

WILD ANIMAL EXTINXTION

Death by Suicide

UNFAIR PAY

disabled animals



RACISM

Mysogeny

confinement

zoonotic diseases

Food Insecurity



Climate Crises

FORCED PRISON LABOR

speciescism

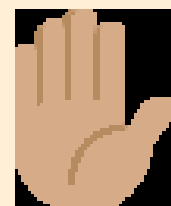
I.C.E.

poor working conditions

environmental degradation

Colonization

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THE BIG PICTURE



captivity

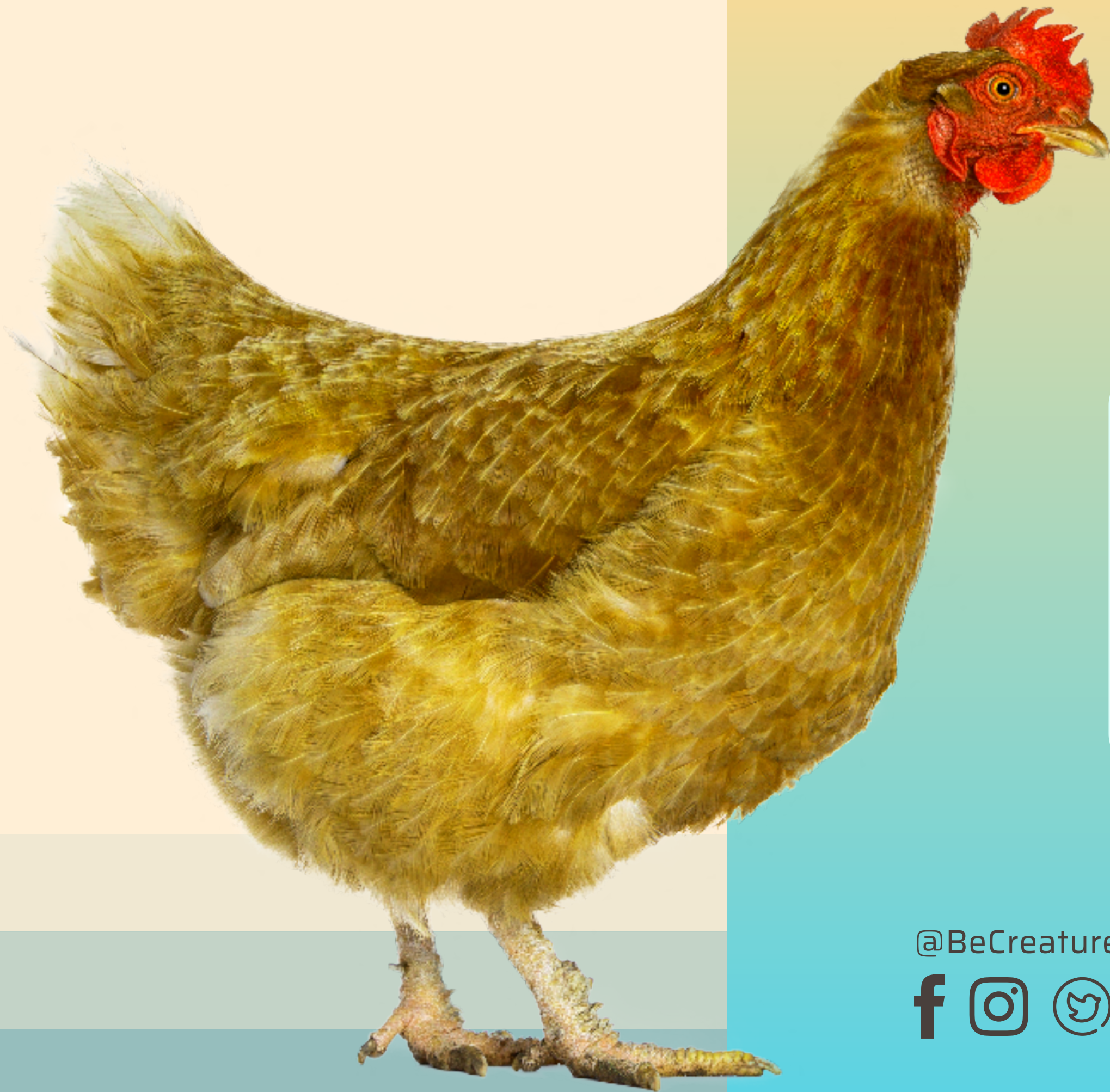
The farming of animals and their consumption as food have devastating impacts on all God's beloved.

Might Christians be able to paint a more compassionate picture?

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for Animals, Peoples and the Earth

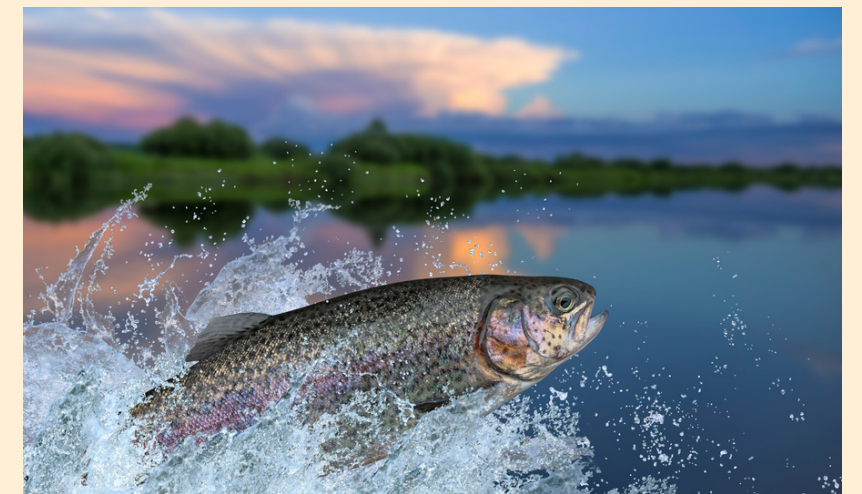


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Practical Application: Including all Creation in Ministry

1. Liturgy that centers liberation for animals, peoples, and the earth
2. Conscious Eating for collective liberation, using frameworks like DefaultVeg



Join Us!

The word liturgy means "work of the people." What if we use each time we write liturgy as an invitation to expand that definition to the work of all beings, not just human. We recognize that we are creatures among other creatures in worship of the Creator-when we pray, when we sing, when we preach. How is the liturgy of all creation present in the way we practice spirituality?





Closing Prayer
Creator of all good things, as we patiently wait for the day when all things are restored to the goodness of your kin-dom, help us to prepare in the ways you've called us to live. May we be active participants in ushering in the salvation of God for humans and non-humans alike. Help us to slow down and remember the soft whisper of your voice to prepare and not lose ourselves in the emptiness that take so much from our neighbors, from the earth, and from ourselves.

May we show up for our neighbors in ways that bring you glory. May we not forget how you prepared the way when you, too, walked and touched the earth. Help us to learn from your compassion and your steadiness so that we are prepared in the face of empires that have failed our human and non-human neighbors.
May we be ready in all the best ways. Amen. (4)

Benediction
May Christ our liberator, sustainer, and rescuer – the seer of all flesh, even at the bottom of hierarchies and the hidden margins of our communities – lead us into hope. And in our waiting, in this “not yet” that we share with all the community of creation, may Peace, Love, and Salvation find us even there. Amen. (5)

Attributions
(1) Call to Worship, Second Sunday in Advent, Sanctified Art For Those Who Dreams Words for Worship, sanctifiedart.org, with edits
(2) Reuben P. Job and Norman Sawchuck, A Guide to Prayer for All God's People, with edits
(3) Carol J. Adams, Prayers for Animals
(4) Prayer written by Karla Mendoza
(5) Benediction written by Rev. Aline Silva

Thank you for joining us!

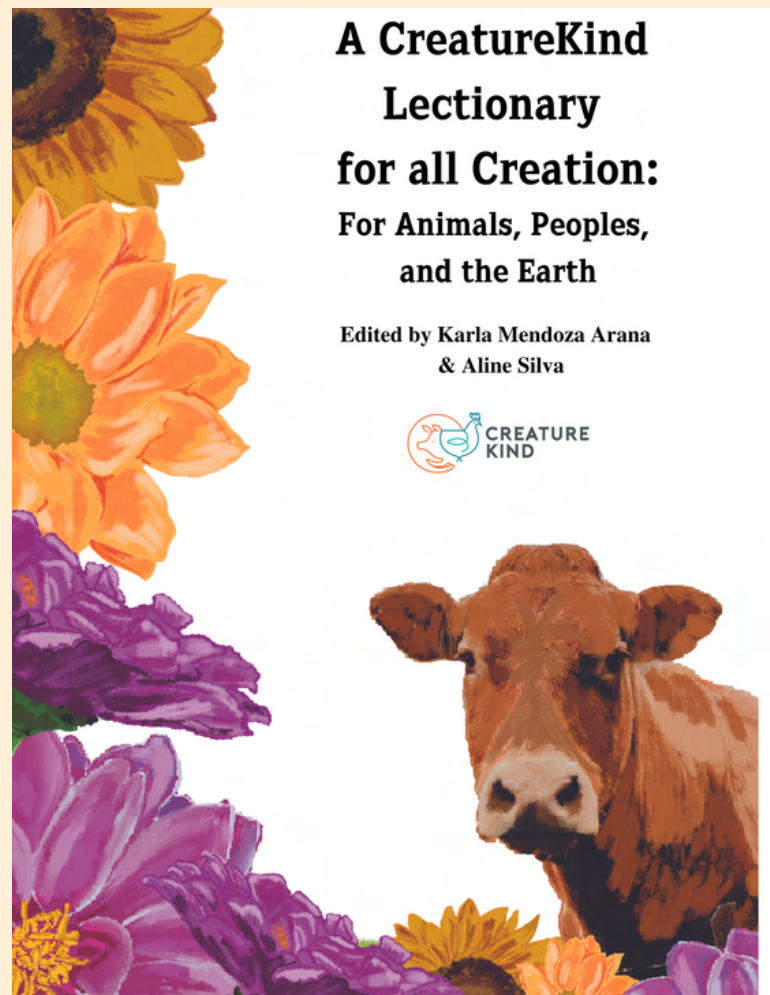
If you would like to support CreatureKind by making a financial gift, please do so by clicking [HERE](#).

In Action

How is the liturgy of all creation present in the way we practice spirituality?

A CreatureKind Lectionary for all Creation: For Animals, Peoples, and the Earth

Edited by Karla Mendoza Arana & Aline Silva



A CreaturKind Lectionary for all Creation

A CreatureKind Holy Week Service

Prayer of Lament

O Lord of abundance, we are hungry.
We are hungry for enough food for every person, animal, and all CreatureKind.
We are hungry for justice. (1)



Justice for those who labor for our food, on farms and in slaughterhouses, both animals and peoples.
Justice for the mother pigs who are forced to give birth confined in crates. The chickens who cannot fly, perch, forage for food or move in industrial barns. The cows who will never know what it's like to freely roam in soft grass. For the billions of fish ripped and killed from your flowing waters.



Justice for the workers who labor for twelve hours with little rest and meager pay, without promise of security for tomorrow, whose sweat makes our lives comfortable.
Justice for BIPOC farmers who have been denied land, food, and access to work safely and prosperously.
Justice for your disabled children for whom we do not provide the healthcare that's needed in our evil systems of white supremacy and capitalism.
Justice for all CreatureKind who are living in poverty and food insecurity, while the most powerful few hoard wealth and resources.
Justice for the earth that is burning in environmental devastation because of industrial agriculture.



Jesus, the bread of life, in whom we all have a share,
Bring us to the table that is equitable for every kind.
Help our churches to become your table on earth.
O God, feed us, bodies and souls, hungry and weary.

Let justice flow like a river to those who have been denied it. (1)

Amen.

Holy Week



CREATE WITH CREATUREKIND: AN EASTERTIDE EVENT

For a world free of exploitation of God's people, animals, and earth

APRIL 22, EARTHDAY 2021

WITH

live artist,
muralist,
illustrator



RONNIE (RO) ROBLES

@WHEREUATRO

Eastertide



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

A CreatureKind Service for Farmed Animals in celebration of Pentecost

June 7, 2022
10 AM PT / 1 PM ET / 6 PM GMT

ASL INTERPRETER PROVIDED



Advent

LENT



A CreatureKind Holy Week Service

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*'BUT ASK THE ANIMALS, AND THEY WILL TEACH YOU;
THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND THEY WILL TELL YOU;
...AND THE FISH OF THE SEA WILL DECLARE TO YOU.
IN GOD'S HAND IS THE LIFE OF VERY LIVING THING...' (JOB 12: 7, 8B, 10A)*

OPENING SONG

**Joyfully, Joyfully
by Ron Kennoly**

Joyfully, joyfully
We are going up
To dedicate our hearts
To the Lord
Joyfully, joyfully
We are going up
We come into His presence
With joy
God has said He'd dwell
In the praises of His people
He is seeking those who'll
Worship Him in spirit and in truth
With our hands lifted up
And our mouths filled with praise
With singing and dancing
And joy we celebrate
Hallelujah, hallelujah
We enter His presence with
Joy, joy, joy
Hallelujah, hallelujah
We dedicate our hearts
To the Lord



LAND

'BUT ASK THE ANIMALS, AND THEY WILL TEACH YOU;

Isiah 11:1-9, NRSV

1
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow[a] out of his roots.
2
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
4
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed[b] together,
and a little child shall lead them.
7
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
9
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.



Exploring Other Creative Outlets for Worship

 **CREATURE
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AN EASTERTIDE
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A CREATUREKIND WAY OF THINKING ABOUT FOOD CHOICES

“As human beings in the West, we are all mired in an unjust food system, and in some ways, we are all complicit in the oppression of others; moral purity is not an option, nor should it be a realistic goal. Rather, our goal must be to dismantle the logics of coloniality, reduce ecological harm, and promote sustainable ways of being in the world...”

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice* (Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2021), 137.

Conscious Eating for Collective Liberation

What is DefaultVeg?

- DefaultVeg is a framework for individuals and communities to aid with conscious eating for collective liberation, designed to meet people where they are, while centering the wellbeing of all God's beloved creatures.
- Long-term perspective shift
- Sustainable option rather than focusing on changing our entire food system at once. We shift over time how we look at the foods we eat ourselves, and when we gather.



Conscious Eating for Collective Liberation

What is DefaultVeg?

- Makes plant-based food the default at every meal, instead of animal products
- Eating for the welfare of farmed animals, the environment, and other people.
- Can be applied individually and in community
- Nudging towards change and building a new system



DEFAULT VEG FOR ANIMALS



- Worldwide, about 70 billion land animals are killed for food every year and 109 million metric tons of fish are extracted from the oceans.
- God sees every sparrow who falls, but the standard practices of industrial animal agriculture fail to treat animals as anything more than protein-production units.
- By adjusting our meals to focus on plants, we can begin to abstain from participation in an inhumane and unjust system.

Getting Started

- Think about the places you gather to eat or where you help people gather.
- If you have a church potluck coming up, make a plant-based version of a community favorite meal.
- List plant-based options first at community events



On your own

Make plant-based meals your default. If you use meat, dairy, or eggs, use them as an add-on, instead of as the focus of the meal.

For a small group

When ordering food for a group, make the meal veg by default. Those who want to consume animal products can opt-in by request. For instance: “We’re planning to order bean and soyrito burritos for our meeting on Tuesday night. Please let Stacy know if you want her to order you an alternate option.”

Planning a church potluck

Ask congregants to bring their favorite vegan or vegetarian dishes to share. For instance: “If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a vegan or vegetarian main dish; N-Z bring sides and desserts.”

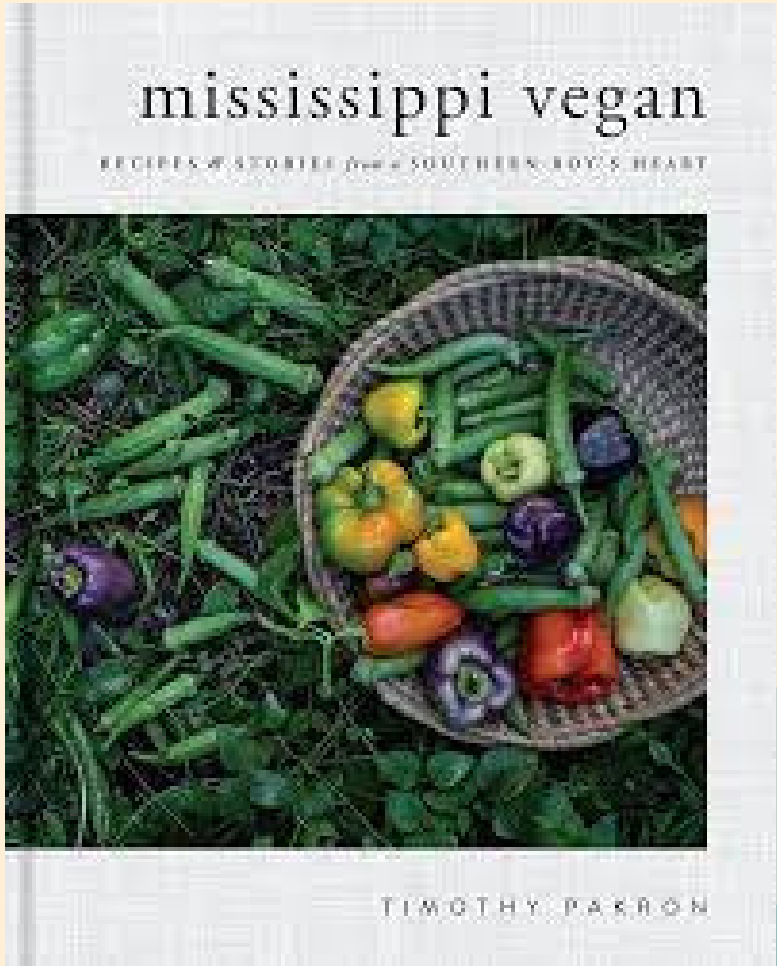
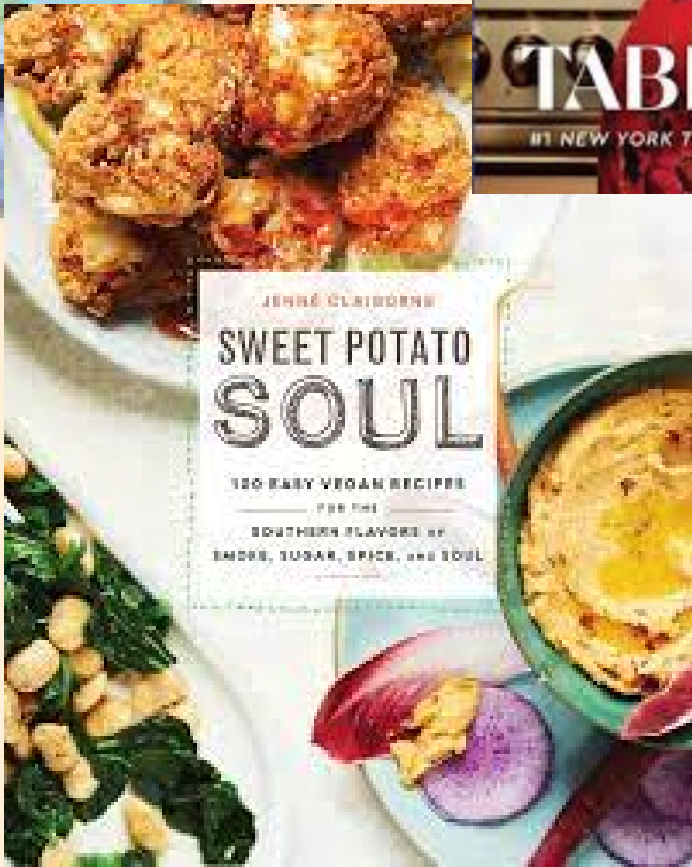
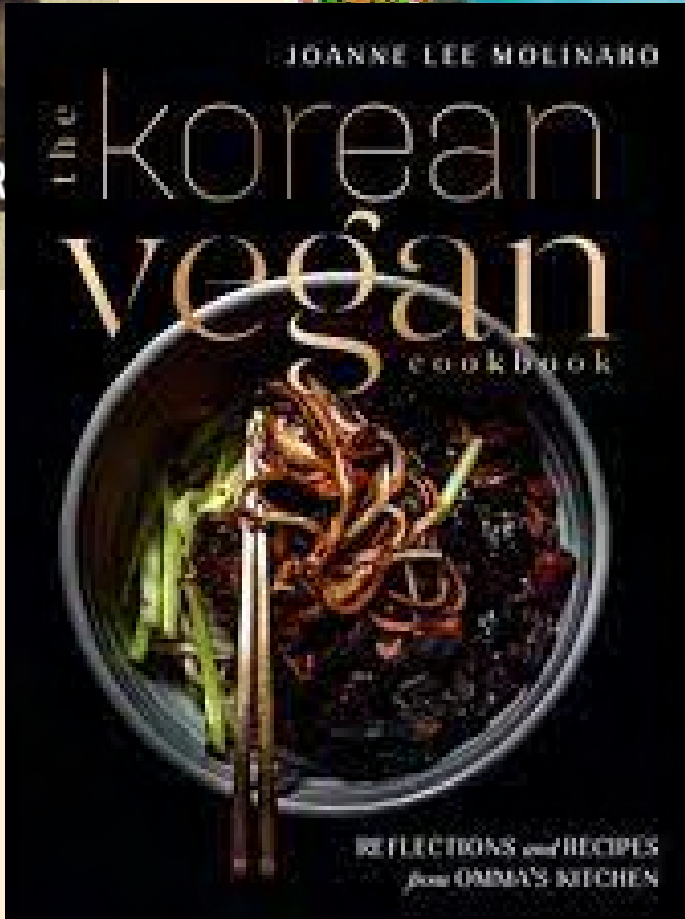
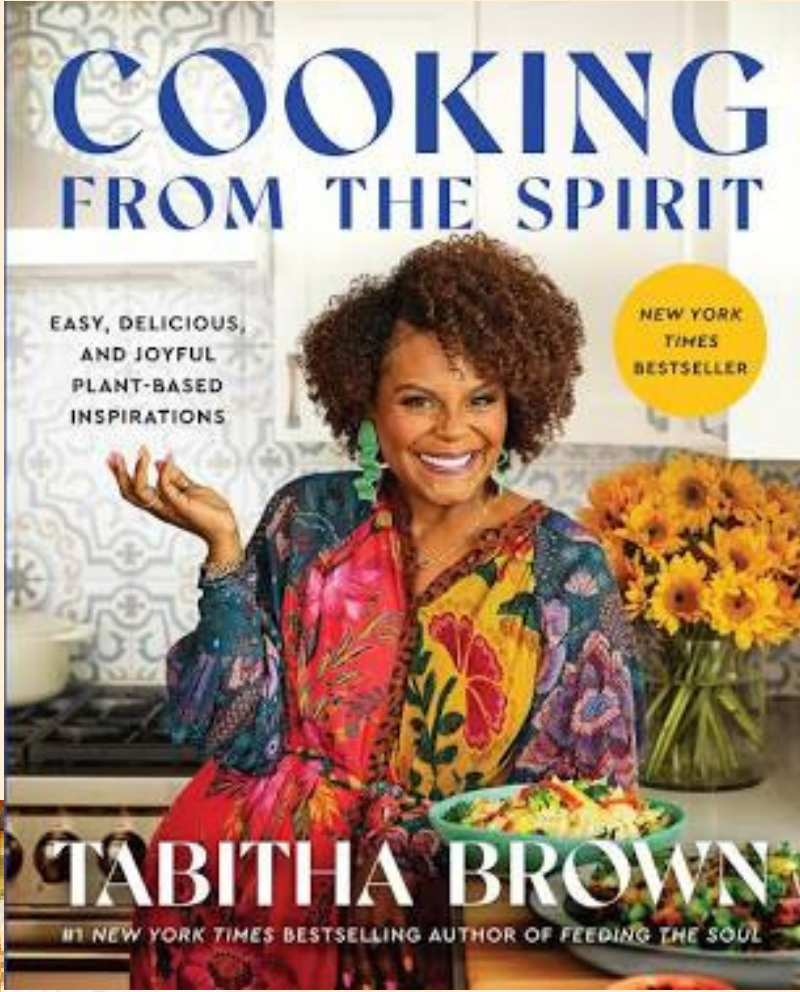
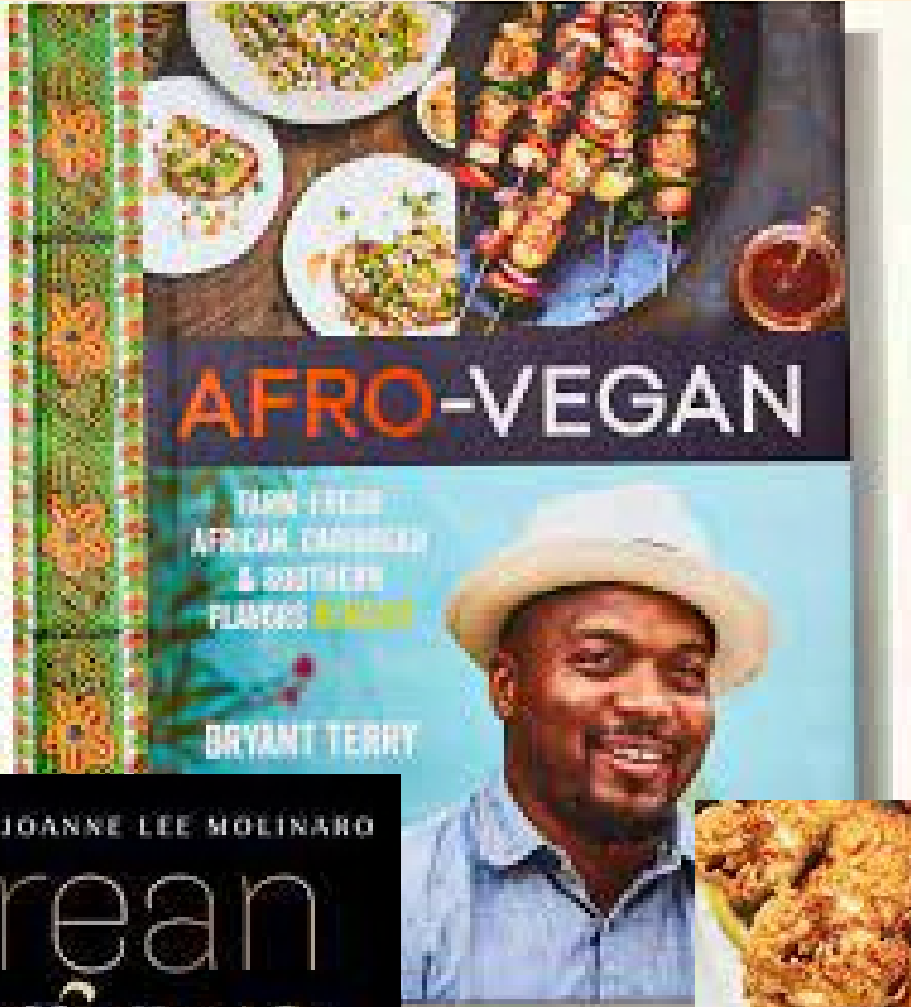
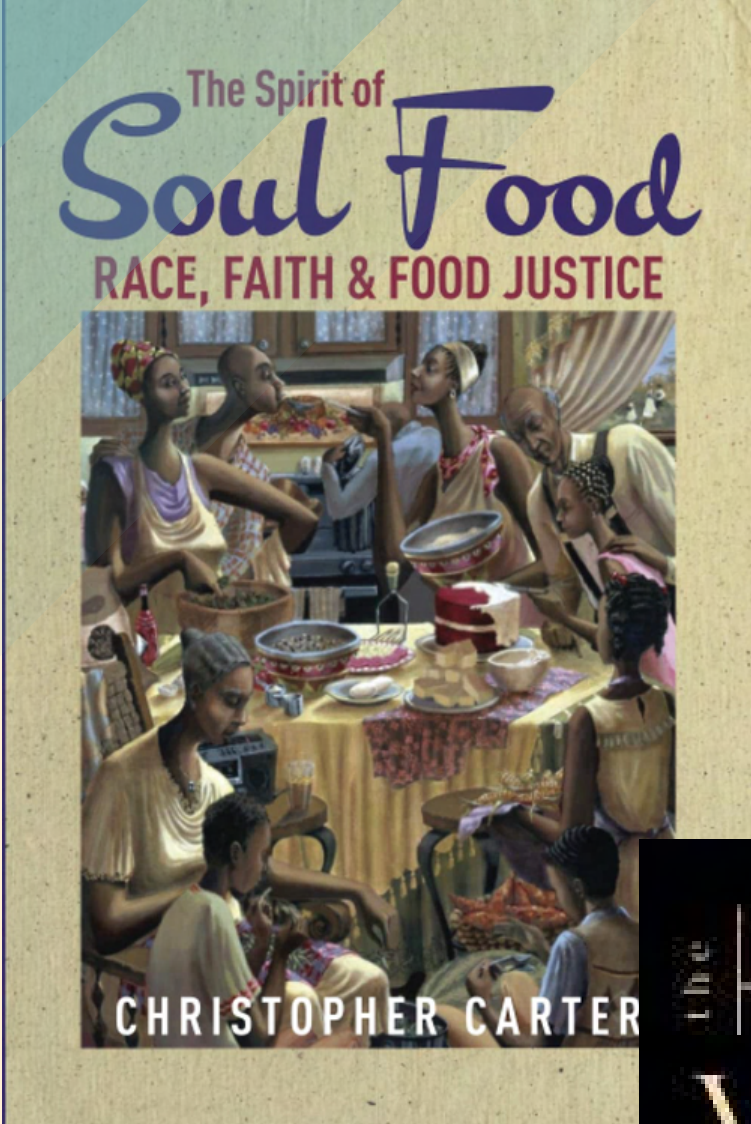
In a dining hall, cafeteria, or buffet line

Nudge people towards plant-based options by listing them first on menus, placing them at the front of buffet lines, and increasing the ratio of plant-based to meat dishes overall. Feature specials like an “Autumn Bowl with Ancient Grains, Moroccan Roasted Root Vegetables, and Herbed Cashew-Tahini Dressing” and offer a small portion of meat as an optional add-in, if at all.

At a conference or event

Instead of asking vegetarians and vegans to request a special meal during the registration process, change the default to providing vegetarian and vegan food, and asking those who want meat options to tick a box. For instance: “Your Justice and Climate Change Conference registration fee includes two lunches and two dinners, which will be plant-based. If you would like to request a meat meal, please check this box.”

Food brings people together!





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INDIVIDUALS

- Consider how the food on your plate impacts animals, peoples, and the earth
- Reduce your animals consumption
- Add more veggies to your plate
- Get to know your food growers and handlers
- Commit to Learning more, start [here](#) with our publications
- Contact your local leaders and advocate for better legislation:
 - [The Farm Bill](#) has a huge impact on how food in the United States is grown, what kinds of foods are grown, and the livelihoods of the people who grow our food.
 - [The Justice for Black Farmers ACT](#) by the National Black Food & Justice Alliance [here](#), and updated legislation on Senator Cory Booker's website [here](#)
- Ask your religious leaders to preach, teach, and engage in animal advocacy



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Communities

- Consider our communion tables and how the food at our gatherings impacts animals, peoples, and the earth
- Participate or lead a Book, Devotional, or Bible Studies
- Use the **Christian Ethics and Animal Agriculture Framework Document** when speaking to your community. This document is a draft for discussion outlining the basis for a collaboration between US church organizations, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and CreatureKind on the Christian ethics of animal agriculture.
- Invite the CreatureKind staff to preach, teach, and share more with your community by contacting us.



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