

## **Spring sermon series: "Earthlings: Broken Ground"**

**Text: Genesis 3:17-19**

**Date: April 18, 2021**

### **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. Think of a past experience when you were made more aware of the contamination or polluting of our physical environment. What are the some of the longer-term effects?
2. Would you say that clean air and clean air are rights or privileges?
3. How do you think the image of God is exhibited or revealed by the earth?

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. From the Genesis creation accounts, how did the earth become "cursed"? How did this disrupt and distort God's intended design and purpose for the world? How does this contrast with God's call for humans to "work and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15)?
2. Think of other biblical examples where people struggled with the deprivations of the land. What were the prevailing harms and challenges?
3. What is meant by "exploitative use" of the land? How is that counter to biblical teaching?
4. How would you define "environmental justice"? How does our relationship with God relate to the impact of our choices and behaviors on the quality of life of others around us?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. What is one thing you can do to increase your understanding of your connection to the earth? What is one simple action step for you to address misuse of the physical environment?
2. Where does your water come from? Go to your water utility's website and learn about the source(s) of your water. Share what you learned and talk about how, as Christians, we should be stewarding this resource.