25 years

Church of South India
Department of Ecological Concerns

Mr. Jairam Ramesh M.P., former Central Minister for Environment, inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Ecological Committee of the CSI Synod on Earth Day 2017 (22nd April) at the CSI Synod Centre, Chennai
MISSION
CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns seeks to create awareness among all people about environmental and ecological concerns and thereby to care for God’s creation. Encourage people to refrain from the abuse of nature’s resources and to strive to keep the earth a habitable place for all. We encourage parishes to incorporate ecological concerns in their order of worship and include both advocacy and direct action for eco-justice and the integrity of creation in missional activities.

VISION
Fossil-Fuel based, automobile-centered, throwaway economy is not a viable model for the world. The alternative is a solar/hydrogen energy economy, an urban transport system that is centred on advanced-design public rail systems and a comprehensive reuse/recycle economy. The cities are to be designed for people and not for cars. We have to build an economy that will support, not undermine, future generations.

UNIQUENESS
The Most Rev.Ryder Devapriyam, then Moderator of CSI, inspired by the call of WCC, constituted an ecological committee in 1992. The CSI is the only Church in India which has mentioned Ecology as a mission in the Constitution and in Mission statement. For CSI, Ecological work is not a social service, it is a part of faith. It is the only Church in India, recognised by UNDP with an eco Award.
1. Earth Bible Sermons

A sound theological backing is essential for the Green Church Movement. Hence members have to be taught about the faith aspect of the environmental ministry. In order to reach grass root level, we have published Earth Bible sermons which can be used by clergy during Sunday services (three volumes in four vernacular languages).

Earth Bible Sermons are readings of the Bible from the perspective of the Earth. The sermons are the Biblical responses that Jesus would have had to face the present ecological crisis. It is a listening and responding to Bible texts from the stand point of Earth. A unique and innovative work of the ecological Department of CSI.

2. Green Parables

Parable is a language that Jesus used to make people think. It helped people for a self-discovery and started a process of transformation. Jesus parable is a powerful means to know oneself and brought transformation. People asked questions which created a peoples' movement. The Department of Ecological Concerns conducted two workshops
for writing green parables for creating a movement to understand the worth of the creation and also the worth of the creator. Hope the parables will inspire people to join the movement for a green Earth.

3. Ecological Sunday (2nd Sunday of June)

15000 congregations, 4.3 million people of CSI celebrate Ecological Sunday on 2nd Sunday of June every year, marking the beginning of innovative programmes in their parishes. Every year the Department of Ecological Concerns prepares the sermon and liturgy for Ecological Sunday relating to the World Environment Day theme and distributes. Through eco-liturgy and eco sermon we are giving insight to the congregation on the faith aspect of conserving the integrity of creation.

4. Planting of Saplings

Planting Jatropha/Punna on barren lands, Mangroves in the coastal areas, Vetiver and fruit bearing plants in populated areas. CSI is joining hands with ecumenical and environmental organizations in planting 20 million plants in the next 10 years. Vetiver is a unique plant which we are propagating to Recharge Ground water, Prevent soil erosion, Stabilise river banks and roads, Reduce global warming and Reduce floods.
The CSI Church is the only Church in India which has taken a strong stand in favour of the Gadgil committee report to protect the biodiversity of 1600 km stretch of Western Ghat. Planting sapling and nurturing is a spiritual work. Some healthy practices in some dioceses- after marriage, the first task the couples perform is planting a sapling on the campus of the Church. Welcome the guests with a sapling of a flowering plant.

5. Rain Water Harvesting

We promote digging mud pits in all the lands of our churches and our institutions, in order to harvest rain water. Due to climate Change water scarcity is a serious issue. CSI is promoting rain water harvesting in order to mitigate water scarcity.

RAIN WATER IS A BLANK CHEQUE

( During rainy season, people think continuous raining is a headache. Harvested Rain water is telling her story)

Do you think that I am a headache?.
All headaches are due to misunderstandings,
Proper understanding will remove all headaches.
See my case, I have been falling on the roof tops of your Church/School
for the last so many years during the monsoons.
I have been running on land to reach the rivers and lakes.
If you would like to recharge ground water-
make the running rain water to walk, walking water to crawl
and the crawling water to stop.
If you do like that at last, I will stop my usual journey

September 2017
and I will rest in the mud pit, you made for me.
Yes, I will sleep there till the onset of summer.
I will be thankful to you for the wonderful rest you have given to me in this hectic world.
I will come back next summer to see you again, to quench your thirst, also to see you for giving me a new dimension to my journey.
I wish you also a new life Journey without causing headache to others.

6. Waste Management

Waste Management education in schools, with pupils designing posters, writing essays, staging a drama, and making other presentations about recycling. As a hallmark of operation our phrase is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse." Some Dioceses are supplying portable biogas plants to all parsonages-converting kitchen waste to fuel.

7. Renewable Energy

The CSI is promoting solar-absorbing panels to generate electricity in all the institutions owned by the CSI. CSI promotes the use of solar energy wherever possible. Instead of Nuclear / thermal/ hydel projects to generate energy we demand setting up a Solar Energy Commission on the same lines as the Indian Space Research Organisation with a clear mandate to achieve a clearly defined target for substituting 50 percent of the country’s fossil fuel consumption by solar energy, within ten years.
8. Green Clergy Fellowship

The Clergy of CSI, interested in Ecological Concerns are grouped as Green Clergy. Through WhatsApp and emails we regularly update them of the latest eco developments. Green Clergy meet twice a year. Earth Bible Sermons, Green parables are the contributions of Green Clergy fellowship.

9. Green Teachers Fellowship

The teachers who are interested in ecological work are grouped into Green Teachers Fellowship. Through WhatsApp, Emails we regularly update and share eco concerns. Green Teachers meet once in a year.
10. Environmental Rally

For educating the public we conduct rally.

11. Green Awards

We have been giving green awards to promote ecological Concerns since 2004.
12. Green School Programme

We want to make a difference.

The CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns do believe that the mission mandate of the Church today in the education sector is to teach Sustainability. CSI has 1900 schools spread all over five southern states in India. In addition to the curriculum prescribed, we would like to teach the students a sustainable way of living. Green Schools give emphasis to sustainability. Students are encouraged to take a proactive approach to environmental challenges and are asked to share their new found knowledge and skills with members of their family. Ultimately, sustainability is about being good global citizens: ensuring adequate resources for a clean, healthy environment for all and giving students the tools to be innovators, and giving them a healthy environment in which to learn and play.

13. National and International Ecological Conferences

CSI organised six National and five international ecological Conferences for net working and sharing our concerns.

14. Organic farming

We promote organic farming. The CSI has taken a strong stand against GM crops. GM inevitably leads to loss of our right over seeds thereby the loss of food sovereignty of the country.
15. Climate Justice Ministries

The most of the CSI Congregations belong to the communities that are vulnerable to Climate Change. We create awareness on “Climate Justice” at the congregational level in these diocese. Further, re-read the Bible and reaffirm our faith from the perspective of Climate Refugees. We inspire the congregations to discern climate justice as an integral part of churches public witness today. We hope that the congregations would be equipped to involve in saving creations whose life and livelihood are under threat.

16. Eden Eco Spirituality Centre, Othera

Model eco centre. Rain water harvesting, Bio gas for cooking, renewable energy, ecology sound buildings, organic farming, domestic animals like cows, rabbits, hens, etc, meditation halls, natural beauty.
Silver Jubilee of CSI Synod Ecological Concerns Committee inaugurated

Mr. Jairam Ramesh M.P, former central minister for environment, inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Ecological Committee of the CSI synod on Earth Day 2017 (22nd April) at the CSI Synod centre, Chennai. Jairam Ramesh released the book ‘Silent Rhythm, Green tales for Children, written by Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad and Dr. Anne Susan Koshy by giving the first copy of the book to Dr. Saji Chacko and Ms. Grace Lawrence. The Moderator presided over the public function held on the Earth Day, which was the inaugural day of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the department. Rev. Dr. D. R. Sadananda, General Secretary of the CSI, Adv. Robert Bruce, the Treasurer of the CSI, Bishop M Joseph, Chairman of the Ecological Concerns and the Director of Ecological Concerns addressed the gathering. The General Secretary mentioned the names of Bishop P. G. Kuruvilla, Bishop William Mosses, Bishop C I Furtado, Bishop George Issac, Bishop Thomas Samuel, Bishop Thomas K Oommen and Bishop B N Fenn who served as the Chairmen and Dr. Edwin Chandrasekharan, Prof. Profulla Kumar, Ms. Jessie Jayakaran, Prof Christin Babu, Dr. Mathew Koshy Punnackad and Rev. Viji Varghese Eappen who served as the Conveners of the Ecological Committee during various periods. In 2011, the Synod opened a Department for Ecological Committee and Rev. Viji Varghese Eappen was the first Director. The Moderator of the CSI honoured Dr. Edwin Chandrasekharan, the first convener of the Synod Ecological Committee. Bishop M Joseph honoured Mr. Jessie Jayakaran and Prof. Christin Babu who served as
conveners of Ecological Committee. The Chairman ecological Committee honoured Dornakal, Karimnagar, Krishna Godavari, Madhya Kerala, Madurai Ramnad, Medak, Nandyal, Trichy-Tanjore and Tirunelveli dioceses for their ecological contributions during the last triennium. 270 delegates participated in the final public meeting. The participants appreciated Bharathanatyam, dance, and choreography of Monahan girls higher secondary school, Chennai during the public meeting.

**CSI Green School Programme**

The third training for the teachers of the Church of South India (CSI) Schools was held on 29th July 2017 at the CSI Synod Centre, Chennai. The CSI Synod is planning to convert 1000 Schools of the CSI to Green Schools within next five years and to improve the overall academic quality of the students by involving them in the Green School Programme. Dr. Narasimhan, an eminent ecologist, explained the philosophy behind the Green School Programme in his keynote address. Ms. Nisha Jacob took a class on the Green School Programme of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, and demonstrated through the web on how to register online at the CSE Green School Programme. Dr. Regina, Associate Professor of Newbegin College, explained how the questionnaire to be filled by the teachers and the students before and after the Green Audit. Seventy teachers from five southern states of India participated in the training.

**Sustainable Values for a Green Church**

Mr. K. Paul Thomas, the MD and CEO of ESAF (Evangelical Social Action forum) bank inaugurated the three day camp at Kanyakumary from 19th July 2017. He requested the Church to build inclusion as a sustainable value. An inclusive society envisages a 'Society for All', where every individual with their rights and responsibilities has an active role to play in the development of the society. He presented the current scenario where
Water, Minerals, Bio diversity (Plants, Animals, Fishes, Forests, Agriculture Lands etc) are fast depleting. Twenty-five percent of the country’s population, across 10 states, had been hit by drought after two consecutive years of weak monsoons in 2016; the destruction of forest land across the country is on an average, 135 hectares (around 333 acres) per day; indiscriminate use of pesticides causing fast depletion of the Honeybee population. (One-third of our global food supply is pollinated by bees); the global fishing fleet is 2 or 3 times bigger than what the oceans can sustainably support and production of paper cups (globally) requires 32 million trees annually. Conservation is honouring God by protecting God’s creation and thereby protecting the sustainable livelihood of the poor. He requested the Church to win communities to adopt the low carbon lifestyle, develop leadership so that the concept can be disseminated, support the excluded children and reach the women to make them ambassadors for low carbon lifestyle. Formation of farmer collectives will become channels for sustainable development, he added.

Mr. Sridhar Radhakrishnan presented the unsustainable values which are being promoted by a consumerist society. Dr. Sankaranarayan Paleeri presented a paper on eco-friendly constructions. Fifty-nine delegates from various Dioceses of the CSI actively participated in the workshop.

**Kanyakumari Declaration**

We, the delegates from the twenty four Dioceses of CSI attending the National Workshop on 'Sustainable Values for a Green Church' from 19th to 20th July 2017 at Kanyakumari request the CSI Synod to support only the development that fulfils the requirement of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. The present development paradigm which is being promoted by the developed countries is responsible for the global ecological crisis. We request the developed countries to change their present development paradigm using fossil fuels which is primarily responsible for Climate change.
As we are living in a global world any action of the developed countries will affect the entire universe, hence we must think globally and act locally. Though climate change is a global problem, all people are not equally responsible for it. The industrialised nations, representing less than 20% of the world’s population, account for nearly 90% of annual GHG emissions over the last century, mainly through the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas). Hence, we make a distinction between the ‘luxury emissions of the rich’ and the ‘survival emissions of the poor’. Hence, we condemn the move of US president to withdraw from the Paris agreement.

As the CSI is committed in protecting the integrity of creation, we do believe that Green protocol should be reflected in the life and ministry of the Church. We do believe that the Church should respond prophetically or lament like Jeremiah when big multinational companies exploit natural resources and consequently the whole creation is being crucified. The Church has to express solidarity with the groaning creation. God the creator, designed the universe as interdependent and as a living organism and therefore the harmony of the universe will be preserved only by the dynamic balance between all its components.

We will resist the claim that anything in creation is merely a resource for human exploitation, species extinction for human benefit; consumerism and harmful mass production; pollution of land, air and waters; all human activities which are now leading to rapid climate change; and the policies and plans which contribute to the disintegration of creation. We conserve Energy and water; educate the congregation to ensure that energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use; encourage the increased use of renewable energy; use water efficiently with care and avoid pollutants entering the drainage system.

Regarding Waste, we recommend four R’s as the policy of CSI- Reduce Waste, Recycle waste, Reuse Waste and Refuse waste coming from the developed countries.

Regarding Materials and Resources, we request all the members of the CSI to buy products which are made in accordance with the principle of using material in a sustainable way and to use locally-made goods wherever possible. Also, to take into account the lifetime costs of materials while repairing, altering or rebuilding premises;
maximise the proportion of paper used from sustainable sources and recycled materials; offer electronic communication as an alternative to paper for those who are suitably equipped; show concern for the environmental quality of food production systems and the equitable global distribution of food.

Regarding Natural and Built Environment, we request the CSI Synod to utilise opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment, promote and encourage eco-friendly constructions. As huge Church buildings are becoming a liability in the western countries, we request the CSI synod to formulate a policy for Church Constructions. At present 80% money is being spent on constructing tower of the Church. We speak and fight against the exploitations of natural resources by multinational companies and we use natural resources extravagantly for the construction of Church buildings. Huge luxurious church building should not be permitted in the CSI. In future, various denominations in an area should think in terms of sharing Church buildings.

During travel, we have to make every effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption; avoidance of unnecessary travel and the use of energy efficient vehicles; explore undertaking the ministry of the Church in ways which reduce the need for travel particularly by car and encourage the use of public transport, cycle and by foot; to car pool wherever possible; to support the expansion of good quality public transport, the provision of improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and local Green Travel Programmes.

Agriculture is a serious issue which the Church must address. The wrong agricultural practices are responsible for diseases, malnutrition, poverty etc. The Church has to promote organic cultivation and take a strong stand against GM cultivation in agriculture. Encourage parish members to plant saplings outside their boundaries. We request each parish to honour poor farmers during Christmas season. The CSI Synod is supporting the Gadgil committee report in protecting Western Ghats and has taken a stand against the GM Crops in Agriculture. Fossil-fuel based, automobile-centred, throwaway economy is not a viable model for the world. The alternative is a solar/hydrogen energy
economy, an urban transport system that is centred on advanced – design public rail systems and a comprehensive reuse/recycle economy. We have to build an economy that will support, not undermine, the future generations. Therefore, we commit ourselves to be members of both the living community of creation in which we are but one species, and members of the covenant community of Christ; to be co-workers with God, with a moral responsibility to respect the rights of the future generations; and to conserve and work for the integrity of creation both for its inherent value to God and in order that justice may be achieved and sustained.

CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns endorses the statement of Anglican Communion Environmental Network

The Anglican Communion Environmental Network has added its voice to those condemning President Donald Trump for deciding to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement. President Trump said the agreement, which was reached in October 2015, would hurt the American economy, cost American jobs and put the US at a disadvantage with rival economies such as China and India. In its statement, the Environmental Network expressed its sorrow at the decision (details available: http://csisynod.com/deptnews.php?cat=EC)

CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns Issues a Press Statement against Genetically Modified (GM) Mustard

The Department of Ecological concerns of CSI Synod is anguished to learn from the media that the GEAC (Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, has recommended the commercial release of the genetically modified (GM) mustard, named Dhara Mustard Hybrid 11 (DMH11), developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi South Campus (UDSC).

(Details in our website: http://csisynod.com/deptnews.php?cat=C)

CSI Green School Programme Synod level training inaugurated

Catch the students when they are young and give training to them in sustainable values to solve the present ecological crisis”, stated Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, the Moderator of the Church of South India, while inaugurating the Synod level training for the selected teachers from each Diocese at the synod centre, Chennai, from 3rd to 5th of
May, 2017. Mr. G Balachandran, international Eco-trainer and motivator Dr. Gna Sekharan, Professor of Madras Christian College, Mr. Varghese C. Thomas, Chief Sub-editor of Malayala Manorama Daily, Ms. Ajanta and Ms. Aditya, experts from CSE addressed the teachers. Fifty-nine teachers from various diocese participated in the Masters Training Programme. A few responses of the participants after the programme are given below:

“The training has inspired me and after going back to my school I will try to implement the knowledge which I have acquired here and try to make my school be green” (Mrs Margart Ancy – Karnataka Northern Diocese). “We have become master trainers in the green school programme and will take steps to implement the green school programme in all the schools in our Diocese. Every month we will visit the schools and monitor it” (Mr Moses Packiaraj – Madurai Ramnad Diocese). “The training was very useful to me. We have learnt to motivate the teachers, children and society. We will teach others the importance of biodiversity All the speakers gave us a lot of ideas and we have been inspired by their talk”. (Mrs M Grace Deevena – Krishna Godavari Diocese). “I will implement all the eco programmes in my school and also start an Eco-club in our school”. (Mr Anil Dyva Kumar – Dornakal Diocese). “The training was really valuable and beneficial for me. Through the novel ideas, I can uplift my students to the level of missionaries of nature. Now I am confident to give training to other teachers and students” (Mrs. Gladys Ponbala – South Kerala Diocese). “I will arrange a training in GSP in our diocese, motivate students for planting fruit trees, initiate installing solar panels in our school and motivate students to avoid throw away plastics”. (Mr K P Justus Paul – Kanyakumari Diocese) “I will arrange training classes for primary and middle school teachers and for the high school teachers. I will conduct awareness programmers for the students to make my school a model green school”. (Mr. S Ebenezer – Thoothukudi Nazareth Diocese)
CSI Synod Eco-leadership Networking

As a part of networking with different Ecological groups in India, department of ecological Concerns invited leaders of different groups on 21st April 2017 at the CSI Centre, Chennai. and decided to form a network. Ms Arun Krishnamuthy (Environmentalist Foundation of India), Rev Santosh George (WePlant, New Delhi), Mr. Christudas (Evangelical Social Action Forum), Rev. Dr. Shinoj Boas(UTC Bengaluru) Eco-theologian, Dr. Renjit Daniels (Care Earth Trust, Chennai) and Dr. Pauline Deborrah (WCC) plant biologist and eco freelance writer addressed. One hundred and two delegates participated.

CSI Synod Eco-leadership Training Camp

The Department of ecological concerns conducted a one-day training camp for the leaders from various diocese on 20th April 2017. Mr. Binod Maliel, an international HR trainer introduced the idea of Eco-leadership Eco motivation and eco-networking on the first day. During the training, he asked following questions to facilitate discussions. What is God’s purpose for us in Ecology? Why are we here today? The participants actively participated in the eco-leadership training. 95 delegates from various dioceses participated.

Environmental Policy of the Church of South India

The seminar on the Environmental Policy of the Church of South India (CSI) was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. M. Joseph, the Chairperson of the CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns, at the CSI Centre Chennai. In the inaugural speech, he remarked...
that God is continually involving in the issues related to environmental issues through his own creations. We, the members of the church, are given special responsibility to make positive interventions in the ecological issues with a vision and mission to fight against the forces those destabilise ecological balance. He announced that the important procedure the Ecological Concerns Department initiated to create an Environmental Policy is also a part of responsibilities God has bestowed upon us.

**Carbon fast during Lenten Season**

The Circular on Carbon Fast issued by Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, the Moderator of the Church of South India has already garnered the public attention even in the international level. The circular has been translated into the South Indian languages. Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, the Moderator of the Church of South India, encourages Christians for observing a ‘Carbon Fast’ during the Lenten Season.

**GSP training at Othera**

The Fourth training programme for the teachers of Green School Training Programme was held at CSI Eden Eco Spirituality Centre, Othera in Kerala from 1st to 3rd September 2017. Rev.Dr.Chilkuri Vasanth Rao (Principal Designate of United Theological College, Bengaluru) inaugurated the three day training programme with a Bible Study. The main question he addressed through the Bible study was the reason why Christians should involve in protecting the environment?. Prof.Sucy Abrahm (former Professor of Zoology, CMS College explained small projects which the Green School can adopt. Dr.Mini Chacko (Professor of Botany, CMS College, Kottayam) presented a paper on Green Culture . Ms. Nisha Jacob (Higher Secondary Teacher) explained the Green School Programme of CSE. Second day morning Rev. Binoy Joseph delivered the sermon during the worship. Mr. G.Balachandran, International eco trainer and
motivator, divided the whole group into five and motivated the teachers to participate in Green School Programme. He engaged the teachers the whole day. The Second day evening the participants presented their talents on the stage. The third day began with the Holy Communion service and sermon led by Rev.Dr.Chilkuri Vasantha Rao.

After the Holy Communion Service, Dr.Mathew Koshy Punnackadu, director of ecological concerns explained the necessity of undergoing a green audit of CSE. He requested all the teachers to join the GSP programme and the teachers agreed to cooperate with the Green Audit. During the evaluation programme all the participants appreciated the programme in all respects. All the participants wrote their comments on the evaluation sheet circulated. S.Migha vel raja, Madurai Rammnad diocese wrote-“The programme enriched me a lot. Dr.Chilkuri Vasantha Rao mentioned about the enlightenment of 'Symbiotic life'. He said that the Man is not the Crown of Creation and the Sabbath is the crown of the creation. Dr.Mini Chacko advised us to conduct classes under the shade of a tree once in a while. Students will remember it in their life. World day of Prayer was organised in a wonderful way and touched each one who participated. Mr. G Balachandran mentioned that the leadership is laddership to promote others to climb”.P Benjamin Kingston from Coimbatore diocese wrote, ‘This is my first experience and inspired me a lot. I got lot of new ideas and I will implement it in my school. I would like to attend the next training programme also’. Mosses Packiaraj from Madurai wrote, “Really a wonderful experience to study ecology in an eco camp site of CSI Eden eco spirituality centre”. Naconi Priscilla from Trichy wrote, “wonderful experience to live and study with teachers from different backgrounds” Ms.Annet Huggi from Karnataka wrote “All the sessions were highly motivational and I learnt my role to motivate others for a responsible eco society”. One of the Resource persons, Rev.Dr.Chilkuri Vasantha Rao who attended the GSP training throughout wrote, “This GSP training is comprehensive in all respects leaving no aspect unattended. The manual of CSE for GSP is a good resource book. The three days programme has been organised in beautiful way. Thanks to the director and all the staff”. Fifty teachers participated in the programme.
CSI Synod Department of Ecological Concerns organised an ecumenical worship at 5.30pm on 1st September 2017 at CSI Eden Eco Spirituality Centre, Othara in connection with the Season of Creation. September 1 was first proclaimed as a World Day of Prayer for Creation by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox community in 1989, and embraced by other European churches in 2001. Pope Francis declared it a day of Prayer for Creation for the Catholic Church in 2015. Since 2016, the World Council of Churches, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, Act Alliance, and several other Christian agencies have collaborated in an ecumenical celebration of Season of Creation.

Rev. Viji Varghese Eapen delivered the sermon. Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, Moderator of CSI, H.G Joshua Mar Ignathiose (Catholic Church), His Grace Yuhanon Chrisotomos Metropolitan (Orthodox Church) and Rev. Dr. Chilkuri Vasantha Rao (Principal designate, UTC, Bengaluru) shared their commitment and concerns during the worship service.
TEN GREEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I am the Lord your God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all the creations. Know that you are not to dominate, but to tend and take care of the air, water, earth, plants and animals. You are called to be the priests of my creation.

2. Know that you are not to be ‘pantheistic’, worshiping any other images or idols, but to be ‘pan-en-theistic’, seeing me in every creation. Respect the integrity of all creations.

3. Steal not from the posterity. Remember that you have not inherited earth from your ancestors, rather borrowed from your Children.

4. Teach your generations to worship the Creator and ‘work-ship’ with His creation. They shall toil with their hands, not only to survive but also to sustain each other through mutual inter-dependence.

5. Remember that humanity cannot recreate life that has been destroyed. I have given you limited resources. You have everything for your need, but not for your greed. Learn to care. Learn to share.

6. Study my Word and commit your lives towards eco-justice, so as to prevent impending catastrophes. Remember, I have taught not only not to kill humans, but also not to cut trees.

7. Throw out all arms and technology which cause irreversible destructions of the foundations of life.

8. REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE resources, so that the earth and all that in it shall live long.

9. Fight for the rights of earth, never compromising with the values of the state and empire. I, the Lord am with you.

10. Remember that you are not the owner of the land, merely its guardian. You are accountable what I have entrusted you. Be free! But be responsible!