



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth,
you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us
wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature,
that no one may suffer from our abuse of them,
and that generations yet to come may continue to praise
you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

— For the Conservation of Natural Resources,
The Book of Common Prayer

The garden experiences found in Scripture provide several dramatic accounts of transformation: creation, reconciliation and resurrection in the garden of Eden, the garden of Gethsemane and the garden where the resurrected Jesus first appeared.

After working with students for several years in The Garden of H.O.P.E. (Helping Others and Pleasing the Earth), I have discovered that there is no better way to teach about life, death, hope and resurrection than taking a seed, planting it in soil and watching it rise to new life. I have discovered that growing food for the hungry is the best way I know to live out baptismal vows. I have discovered the prayer we pray after Eucharist, “Send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord,” is fulfilled by delivering fresh produce to a food pantry. I have discovered that the greatest joy I have known as a teacher is working alongside students in the garden. I have discovered that my spirituality is grounded in stories from the gardens of scripture and the Garden of H.O.P.E.

What have you discovered in the gardens of your life?

— Marianne Van Vorst Ryan