



Out of the ground the LORD GOD made to grow
every tree that is pleasant to the sight
and good for food.

— Genesis 2:9

On the banks, on both sides of the river,
there will grow all kinds of trees for food.
Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail,
but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because
the water for them flows from the sanctuary.
Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.

— Ezekiel 47:12

If we say that “The earth is the Lord’s gift,” we must be prepared to live as if that is true. We can not misuse a gift from the Lord! If we are to call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ, we must be prepared for radical discipleship by, as so many have advocated, “living simply, so that others may simply live.”

The commitment of the Anglican Communion and its partners to the environment is rooted in the Christian call to stewardship of God’s creation. The communities themselves are contributing by putting their own resources to work, contributing leaders and volunteers along with their traditional knowledge, and by their enthusiasm and dynamism for tackling problems.

The Anglican Church of Burundi is just completing a three-year reforestation program funded by Christian Aid, a United Kingdom based nonprofit organization, that has seen around six million trees planted as well as farmers trained and tree nurseries

established. Trees are planted on the sides of hills and on farms, on church and school land. The benefits are that communities have firewood, wood for construction and other uses, leaves for traditional medicines, land that is protected from erosion, abundant rain for crops to grow and increased production.

Episcopal Relief & Development and the Anglican Church of Burundi are seeking support to continue the reforestation work, building on the successful experience of this program.

— **Léonidas Niyongabo**