

The Ministers' Forum of the ECCB - SPEK cordially invites you to the annual

Ministers' Conference

at the Pedagogical Faculty, of Charles University, Prague, Magdaleny Rettigové 4, Praha 1

23th January to 27th January 2023

A New Heaven and a New Earth

How does Christianity equip us to deal with the ecological crisis?

Monday, 23rd January

17:00	Worship Service with celebration of the Lord's Supper in the church of St Martin-in-the-wall	Preacher David Šorm Organist P.C.A.Morée
19:00	Informal social event at the restaurant U Medvídků	

Tuesday, 24th January

8:50	Prayers	Filip Čapek
9:00	Exegesis of a biblical text	
9:30	Foreign guests bring greetings	Jan Zámečník Trees van Montfoort Hosts: Ewa Jelinek M. Opočenský Jay McDaniel
9:45	The mirror image of peace, groaning creation and images of salvation	
11:45	Green theology (in English)	
15:00	Panel discussion- representatives of the Synodal Council and Church Offices	
17:00	About God, pelicans and ecological crisis (in English)	

Wednesday, 25th January

8:50	Prayers	Jan Amos Dus
9:00	Exegesis of a biblical text	
9:30	Foreign guests bring greetings	Adam Borzič S. Hanke Jarošová
9:45	The world as a hurt lover: Spirituality of the body in the time of ecological crisis	
11:45	Living "Laudato Si": theoretical outcomes of a project	
15:00	General meeting of SPEK followed by refreshments at Smichov church	
19:30	Night Vision Band – a jazz concert at Smichov church (Na Doubkové 8, Praha 5)	

Thursday, 26th January

8:50	Prayers	David Cielontko
9:00	Exegesis of a biblical text	
9:30	Foreign guests bring greetings	Clair Linzey hosts: A. Hanychová, M. Pfann B. Tomášová M. V. Marek T. Hawel J. Varvařovský and R. Kubala J. Halama Clair Linzey František Štěch
9:45	How can the voice of dumb creatures show us the way forward	
11:45	Panel discussion – Foreign guests' experiences	
15:00	Green Deal: a chance or a threat?	
17:00	Workshop 1: From self centeredness to bio centeredness Workshop 2: To grow or not to grow? Socio-ecological transformation and a way to a good life within the limitations of the planet (discussion) Workshop 3: Creation and War (discussion, in English) Workshop 4: Regarding Fellow Creatures: Exploring the Biblical Tradition on Animals (discussion in English) Workshop 5: A new heaven, a new earth and the temptations of artificial intelligence	

Friday, 27th January

8:50	Prayers	Jiří Mrázek
9:00	Exegesis of a biblical text	
9:45	In action and at risk: a panel of the young	J. Dostál, P.Doubravský J. Kašpar, D. Bártová, M. Drápal, P. Mokrejš, I.Mužátková M. Fryšček
11:45	We're trying: examples of positive practice (a moderated conversation)	
14:00	In-service training	

Speakers and Abstracts of talks

Exegesis of a biblical text

Prof. Filip Čapek, Ph.D. (*1971), OT scholar and biblical archaeologist at the ETF CUNI.

Mgr. Jan Amos Dus, Ph.D. (*1966), NT scholar, a specialist on apocryphal works in the Greek language at the ETF CUNI and at the Institute of Classical Studies of the AV ČR.

Mgr. David Cielontko, Ph.D., NT scholar, an expert in early Jewish literature at the ETF CUNI and at the Institute of Classical Studies of the AV ČR.

Doc. Jiří Mrázek, Th.D. (*1960), NT scholar, the Chair of the NT department at the ETF CUNI, emeritus dean, author of NT Commentaries.

Monday, 23rd January

Worship Service in the church of St Martin-in-the-wall

Mgr. David Šorm (*1977), Minister in Horní Krupá and Havlíčkův Brod congregations. He is the founder of the NGO "Krupská škola".

Peter C.A. Morée, Dr. (*1964), church historian, teaches at the ETF CUNI.

Tuesday, 24th January

The mirror image of peace, groaning creation and images of salvation

The first report on the creation can be seen as a utopian ideal of coexistence between human and nonhuman creation. If we accept this perspective, the story holds up a mirror to what we do, which is violent and which causes suffering. Apostle Paul did not ignore the groaning creation and he hoped that liberation from slavery and doom would happen. How can we imagine this liberation? Does it also involve a change in our attitudes towards nonhuman creation?

Mgr. Jan Zámečník, Ph.D. (1978) teaches in the department of Theological Ethics at the ETF CUNI and in the department of Environmental Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk University. He specialises in general and applied ethics, especially environmental ethics.

Green theology

Ecological crisis does not only require new ways of living but also a renewal of theology. Christian theology has limited itself to modernity in thinking through the relationship between God and human beings while disregarding all the rest of existence. The divide between God and nature became gradually manifest through the culture of modernity. The Bible uncovers a world view that includes all beings in many places. Montfoort considers the dogma of the two natures of Christ, which is a key to an ecological theology in the heart of the church and belief, as it analyses the hierarchical dualisms of God and the earth, spirit and matter, male and female. Theology will become more relevant if it dares to speak out for the whole world again. How can we find a new paradigm?

Drs. Trees van Montfoort is an independent theological researcher, journalist and minister of the protestant church in the Netherlands. Her book *Green Theology, an eco-feminist and ecumenical perspective* won the reward 'Best theological book' of 2019 in the Netherlands.

Wednesday, 25th January

The world as a hurt lover: Spirituality of the body in the time of ecological crisis

As much as the original concept of the body was holistic and the biblical anthropology is radically non dualistic, the history of Christian spirituality of the body does not testify to a positive relation to the physical. Climatic crisis and the threat of the collapse of the space ecosystem put in front of us the imperative question of the body and the physicality of the world. Physicality unites us through our senses with the body of creation. The body provides evidence about the interconnectedness and interdependence of all the life on this planet. The metaphor that the world is like our lover comes from the Buddhist environmental philosopher Joanne Macy, who draws on the various mystic traditions including Christian belief. In my talk I will draw our attention to the concrete possibilities of the spirituality of the body today, based on Christian spirituality of creation (e.g. Francis of Assisi, Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart), on the contemporary ecological theology (e.g. Sallie McFague, Matthew Fox, Dorothee Sölle, Jay B. McDaniel), and on interfaith dialogue with spiritualities oriented on the world (Zen, Tantra, spirituality of original people) and, finally, based on the knowledge of contemporary psychotherapy.

Bc. Adam Borzič (*1978) is a poet, psychotherapist and editor of *Tvar* (literature and reviews magazine). He studied theology of Christian traditions at the ETF CUNI. He has published eight volumes of poetry, which have been translated into a number of world languages. He is a co-author of "Prophets of post-utopian radicalism" (monograph, 2018). As a private psychotherapist he draws on drama therapy, Rogerian psychotherapy techniques and depth psychology.

Living “Laudato Si’”: theoretical outcomes of a project

Living Laudato Si' is a project organised by lay people. It is a member of Laudato Si' Movement. In this “Living Laudato Si’” community we pray together and live so that in this country churches and people in general would change their ways. What is the source of our trust that it may be possible to see that communal prayers are understood as a socially responsible act and lead to the transformation of society?

Světlá Hanke Jarošová was baptised in the Roman Catholic Church and takes part in the liturgical life of the RC Church. She is married to a member of the ECCB and sees churches as voices in conversation by which they open the richness of meanings with which the churches are entrusted.

Night Vision Band (a concert)

We'll hear instrumental pieces from album “Uncork” (2020) created in the time of Covid, a new take on some hymns and a few songs written and sang by Jakub Štorek. Periphery is the character of this band, the outskirts of jazz, where the tones of frenetic metropolis or dark surfaces of forest pools resonate. A neurotic's meditation and a headlong run of a phlegmatic person merge here into a book of half-forgotten animals ...

Jakub Dvořáček (1976) - piano, **Miroslav Nosek** (1979) - guitar, **Štěpán Zbytovský** (1977) - flute, **Jan Keller** (1975) – cello and bass guitar and **Jan Dvořák** - percussion.

Thursday, 26th January

Is Christianity irredeemably speciesist?

The presentation will explore the dominant negative teaching on animals within the Christian tradition, and how Christianity has contributed to the ecological crisis we are in. Then we will consider other animal-friendly traditions within Christianity, and how they can be used to redefine our relationship to creation and nonhuman animals in particular.

Dr Clair Linzey is the deputy director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. She is a professor of animal theology at the Graduate Theological Foundation. She gained her doctorate in theology from the University of St Andrews and is coeditor of the Journal of Animal Ethics and coeditor of the Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series. She is the author of *Developing Animal Theology* published by Routledge, and also six other coedited volumes with Andrew Linzey on animal ethics and animal theology.

Green Deal: a chance or a threat?

Two points of view on the given topic by two experts in order to introduce the prospect of trying to alleviate the impact of climatic change. What is our situation? How difficult is it to negotiate conditions for the whole world?

Green deal (GD) – a chance or a trap – does Czech society accept GD? Expert and moral approaches to the realisation of GD in the light of the current situation. Is GD still a modern and sensible challenge? What problems can arise while adopting GD? Does GD reflect biophysical and socioeconomic factors? Does GD reflect the fact that the problem of Global change, i.e. Global climatic changes, is somehow “multinational”? Is it more than usual everyday social tension or discord? How can the current crisis assist that GD be adopted? Is GD necessary at all?

The so-called *green deal* does not involve only our environment but also geopolitics and safety. We will focus on the effect *green deal* has within and outside Europe against the backdrop of the recent UN climatic conference in Egypt.

Mgr. Bronislava Tomášová, an Ambassador, Chair of the MFA Working Group on Climate and Green Transition Diplomacy, Head of the MFA Task Force on Climate and Security. She was Director of Sub-Saharan Africa Department during the previous Czech EU Presidency. In her career at the MFA 22 years long, she served as Head of Commercial and Economic Section of the Czech Embassy in Lebanon (2003 – 2007) and as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to Iraq (2009 – 2011) and to Albania (2012 – 2017).

Prof. RNDr. Ing. Michal V. Marek, DrSc., dr. h. c., (1954) is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry. He works as a scientist and director of the Global Change Research Institute, which he had established. He specialises in ecophysiology of production processes in woody plants, he studies deposits of carbon in ecosystems and the impact of global change on countryside. He also teaches at these universities: in Slovakia, Serbia, Poland, Vietnam, Ghana and Panama.

Workshops (without translation)

1. From self centeredness to bio centeredness

Can we move from self centeredness to bio centeredness by experiential exercise and work with our bodies? How can we couple with nature in order to find our attitude towards inner and outer changes around us?

Ing. Tomáš Hawel was originally a forester. Now he is the director of Diaconia and a therapist in the Psychological Support Center in Vrchlabi. He interconnects process-oriented psychology with the knowledge of natural processes when dealing with group disputes or with depression.

2. To grow or not to grow? Socio-ecological transformation and a way to a good life within the limitations of the planet

It is ever so clear that responsibility of an individual is not enough when solving ecological problems. We need fundamental changes in the structure of society. Governments and international institutions like EU promote so-called "green growth". However, we can hear more and more often that it is economic growth which is the core problem. Why is a constant economic growth undesirable and how would it be if there was no economic growth? How can we proceed towards that state? What is the role of committed society?

Representatives of the socio-ecological transformation **Re-set** programme:

Radek Kubala is involved in the topics of climatic justice and a just transition to economy without carbon. He had led a Greenpeace climatic campaign in Slovakia.

Jakub Varvařovský has been involved in educational projects on human rights. He concentrates mainly on in the question of a just transition to carbon-free economy, which is closely connected with human rights. He used to work as an expert in communication in the Department of Human Rights in the Office of the Government. He is also an active volunteer and a laureate of the Gratias Tibi award.

3. Creation and War (in English)

Has the war in Ukraine changed anything in our relationship to nature?

Doc. ThDr. Jindřich Halama (*1952) is chair emeritus at the Department of Theology of Ethics at the ETF CUNI, He used to be dean of the faculty. He is a preacher in the Unity of Brethren Church.

4. Regarding Fellow Creatures: Exploring the biblical tradition on animals (in English)

Reading some passages from the Bible, followed by discussion.

Prof. Clair Linzey, Ph.D., (see Thursday Is Christianity irredeemably speciesist?)

5. A new heaven, a new earth and the temptations of artificial intelligence

Wouldn't it be better to withdraw from this world into the space of artificial intelligence?

Mgr. František Štěch, Ph.D. (*1980) is RC theologian from South Bohemia and he works as a researcher at the ETF CUNI

Friday, 27th January

In action and at risk (panel discussion)

Short input and a discussion on what the young generation is afraid of and what gives them hope.

Jan Dostál (*1996) is a student of political science. He has been active in ECCB youth groups and attended the UN climatic summit in Egypt.

Petr Doubravský is an activist in Fridays for Future and the RE-SET

Barbora Mudrova is a lecturer at the Amnesty International CZ. She is HR volunteer with People in Need NGO

We're trying: examples of positive practice (conversation with committed people)

A conversation based on the handbook Church and Environment (Kirche und Umwelt, Bern, 2002). We'll be talking about the work of Czech Christian environmental network.

Mgr. Jakub Kašpar (*1975) is a social anthropologist, he is deputy director of KRNP (The Giant Mountains National Park), a scout leader, the session clerk of the ECCB congregation in Vrchlabi and he has three children.

Ing. Marek Drápal, Ph.D. (*1979) graduated from the Technical University, where he had studied biomedical engineering and did postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Medicine. He leads respectful life towards nature in a small village near Jablonec nad Nisou. His five children have never sat in a car. He earns money from home as several servers administrator. He is an elder in the ECCB congregation in Jablonec n.N. He is also the convener of the Environmental Committee at the ECCB Central Office. He has founded and is the director of the Christian Environmental Network.

Ing. Petr Mokrejš (*) has been head of the Project Department at the ECCB Central Office since October 2021. He had studied at the Forestry Faculty in Prague, worked at the Ministry of the Environment and then at the State Environmental Fund.

Mgr. Darina Bártová (*) is the manageress of the Local Inclusive Education Action Group and also an active member of a local action group in Jaroměř. She is a member of the ECCB congregation in Náchod-Šonov.

Ilona Mužátková (*) is a member of the ECCB congregation in Sázava and a lay preacher, a member of the European Environmental Christian Network and the Environmental Committee at the ECCB Central Office.