



## **Introduction to the Green Churches Forum 2017**

Saint Paul University, Ottawa, May 11, 2017

In the Beginning was the Word of God. Everything was created by the Word, everything we find in our natural environment: the Ottawa River, the Gatineau and Rideau Rivers, trout and eels, iron and oil, everything was created by the Word. This is why we celebrate the Spirit of Creation!

When the Word became flesh over two thousand years ago, he came into the world, but his people did not recognize him. At that time the Roman Empire was causing serious social injustice for the peoples it had conquered. Jesus gave his life to reconcile all Creation.

The Word gives life to all creatures and all delight in singing an unending hymn of praise to God. Spiritual people readily join their voices in singing this praise of God the Creator.

In our day, we see the destruction of God's Creation taking on alarming proportions. Ecological balances, the water cycle, the carbon cycle, all created by the Word to ensure life on Earth, are disrupted and now threaten the well-being of all life on Earth. Some populations suffer from this imbalance, others die, many lose hope.

But the Spirit of God continues to hover over the chaos as it seeks to renew the face of the Earth. The Spirit of God calls prophets, priests, elected officials and also Churches to be guardians of Creation. Solutions exist, we must have the courage to choose them.

To meet this ecological crisis and to bring healing, we choose to celebrate the Spirit of Creation.

Welcome to the Green Churches Forum!

Norman Lévesque

