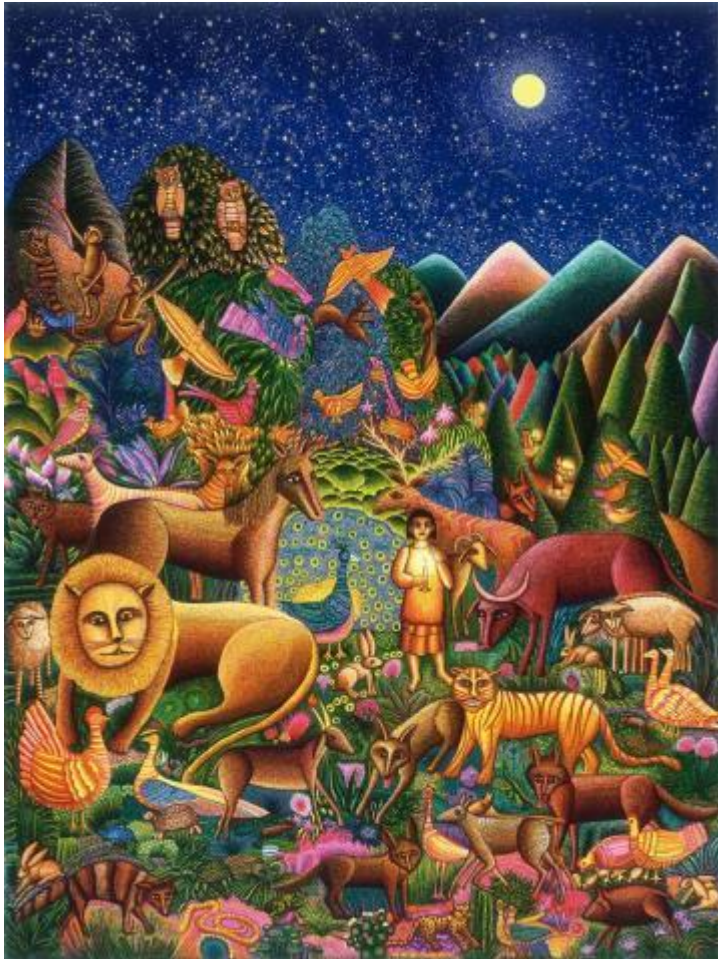


Why an Eco-Reformation?

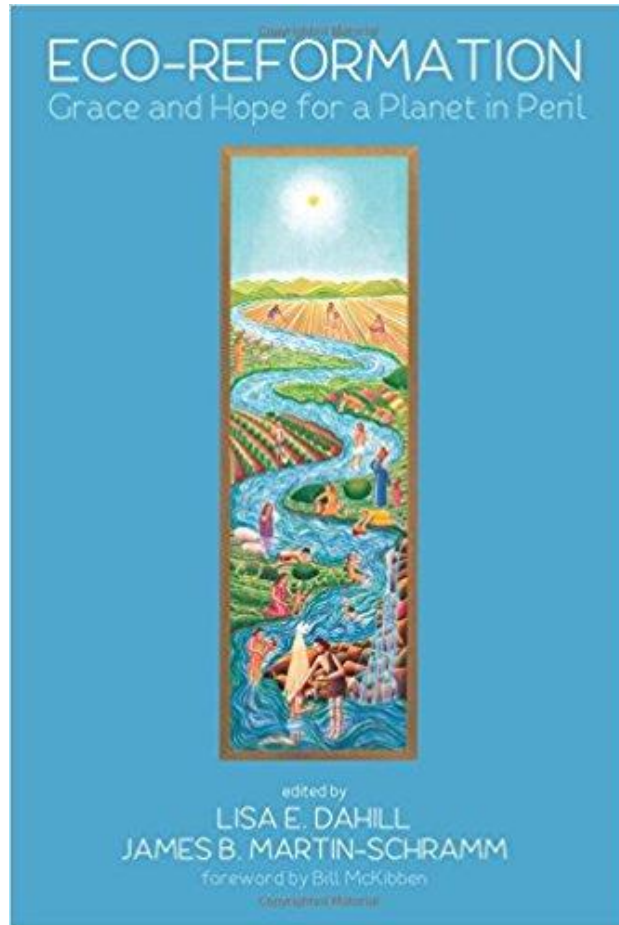
Cherice Bock
Berkeley Friends Church
Quaker Heritage Day
March 10, 2018

Overview



- Session 1: Why an Eco-Reformation?
- Session 2: Quakers & Creation Care: Potentials & Pitfalls in Quaker Theology
- Session 3: Joining the Eco-Reformation through Watershed Discipleship

Eco-Reformation



Salvation: Not for sale.

Human beings: Not for sale.

Creation: Not for sale.

Christians & the Environment

Augustine: “Others, in order to find God, will read a book. Well, as a matter of fact there is a certain great big book, **the book of created nature**. Look carefully at it top and bottom, observe it, read it. God did not make letters of ink for you to recognize God in; God set before your eyes all these things God has made. Why look for a louder voice? Heaven and earth cries out to you, ‘God made me.’ ... Observe heaven and earth in a religious spirit.”
(Sermon 68.6)

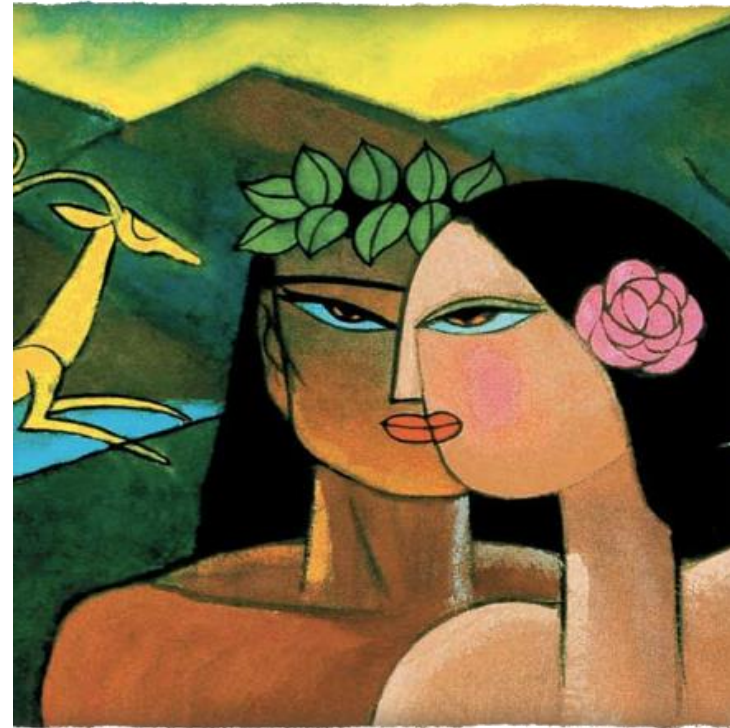


Creation Care in the Bible

- Creation stories
- Care for the land in the Law
- Prophets
- Wilderness theme
- Incarnate Christ
- Love for neighbor
- Creation groans
- New heaven and new Earth

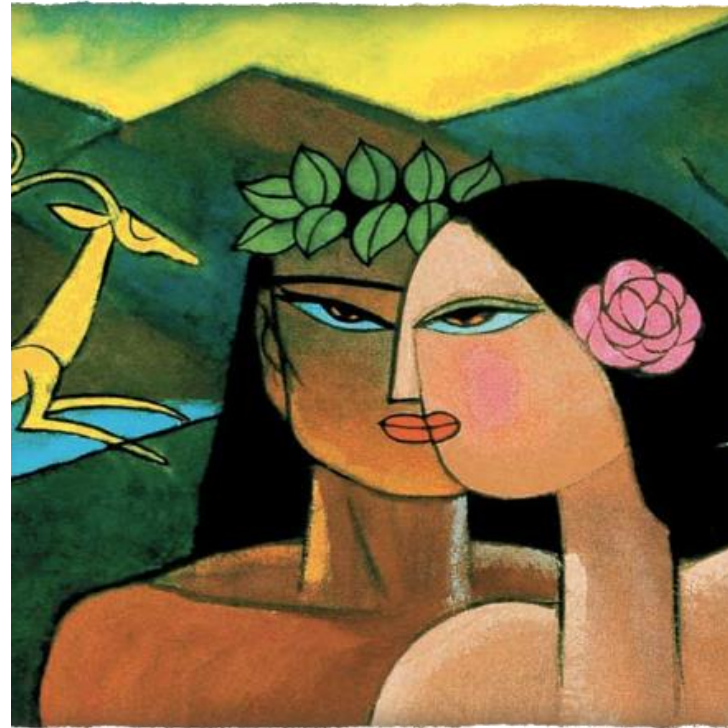
Creation Stories

- Male and female created in the image of God (Gen 1)
- A'*dam* = human being (*ish* and *isha* only after put to sleep)
- *Adamah* = soil



Creation Stories

- Plants given to people and animals for food (Gen 1:29-30)
- Land itself is not given
- People, fish, and birds are told to be fruitful and multiply (Gen 1:22)



Creation Stories

- Genesis 1-2: human beings given responsibility to care for the Earth, to till it and keep it, to become “skilled masters” (dominion = *radah*, skilled mastery, art, craft)
 - Different from the “order vs. chaos” creation story of the ancient Babylonians
 - Creation has an order, and people fit into it and are part of it
 - Order does not equal control

Law

- Major themes in the law:
 - Community
 - Rest
 - Trust
 - Enough
 - Shalom, wholeness



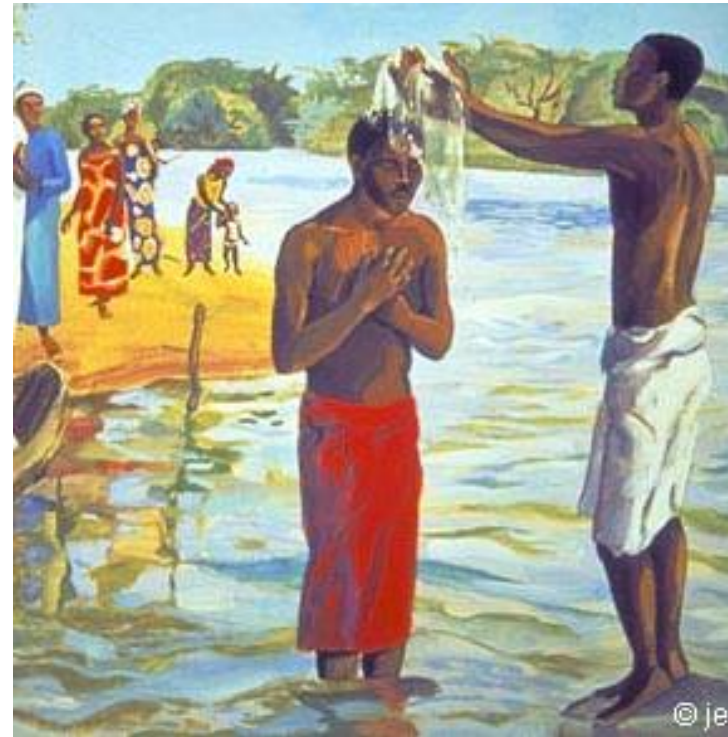
Prophets



- Critiquing the system
- Offering hope for renewal
- Land-based
- *Shalom*

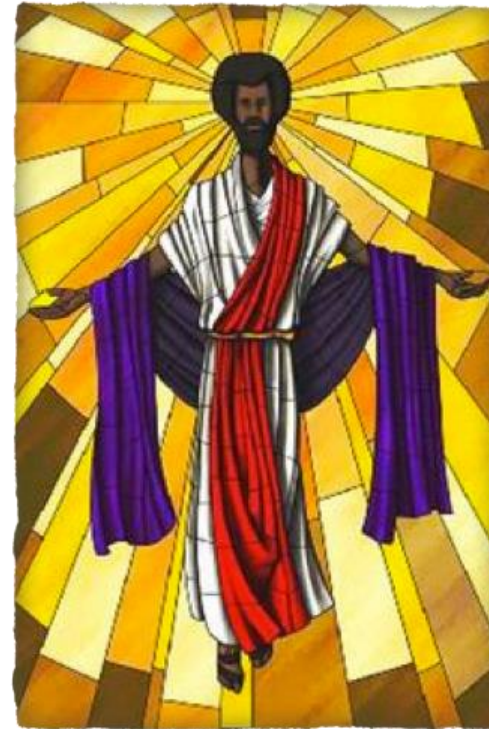
Wilderness

- Israelites
- Prophets
- John the Baptist
- Jesus
- Paul
- Desert Fathers & Mothers
- Francis of Assisi



Jesus

- Became embodied (incarnate)
- Parables based on natural elements to teach us about God
- Lived within a particular place and time



Romans 8:19-25

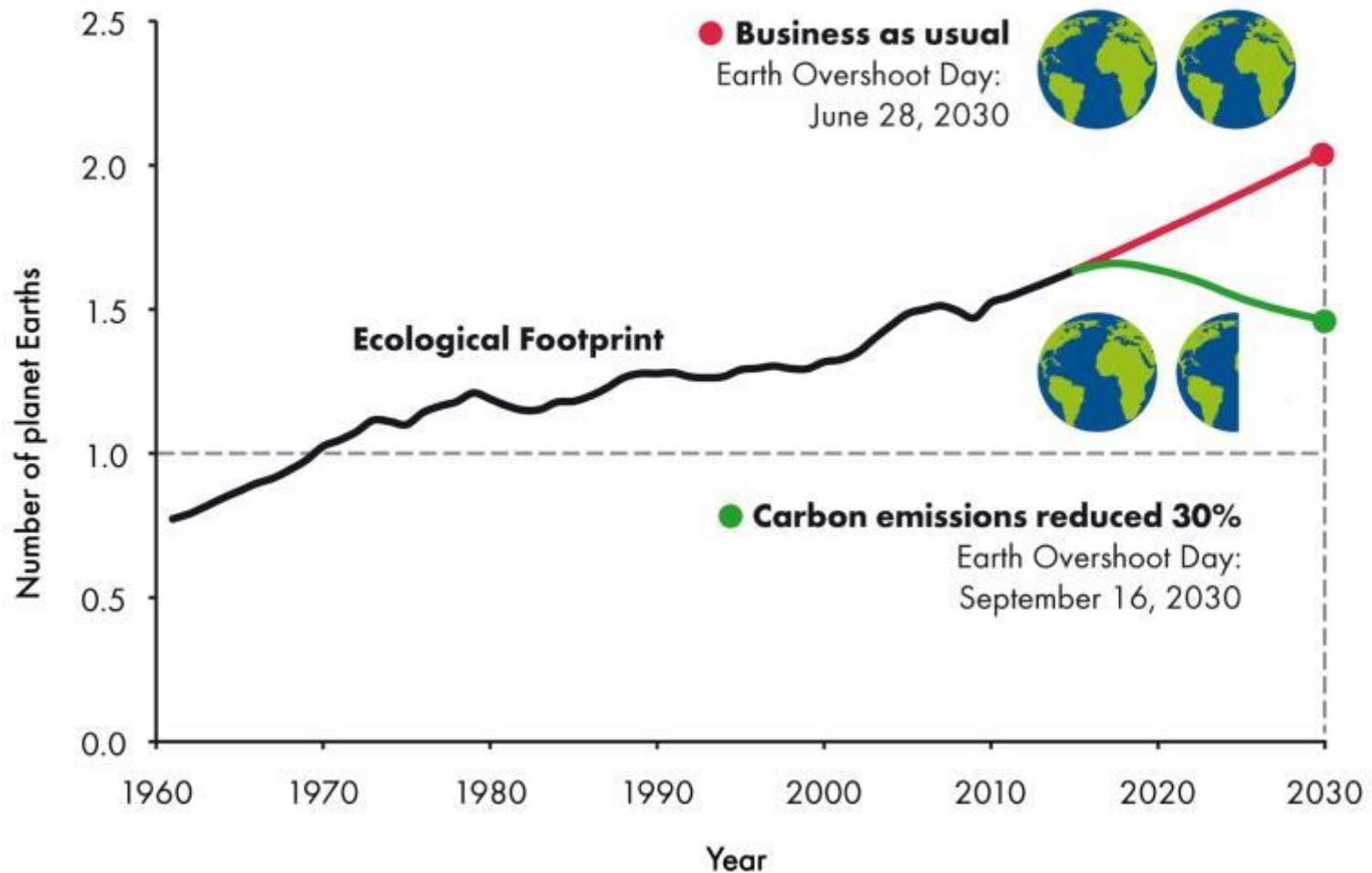
For **the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God**; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that **the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves**, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Eschatology: Where is the Kingdom?

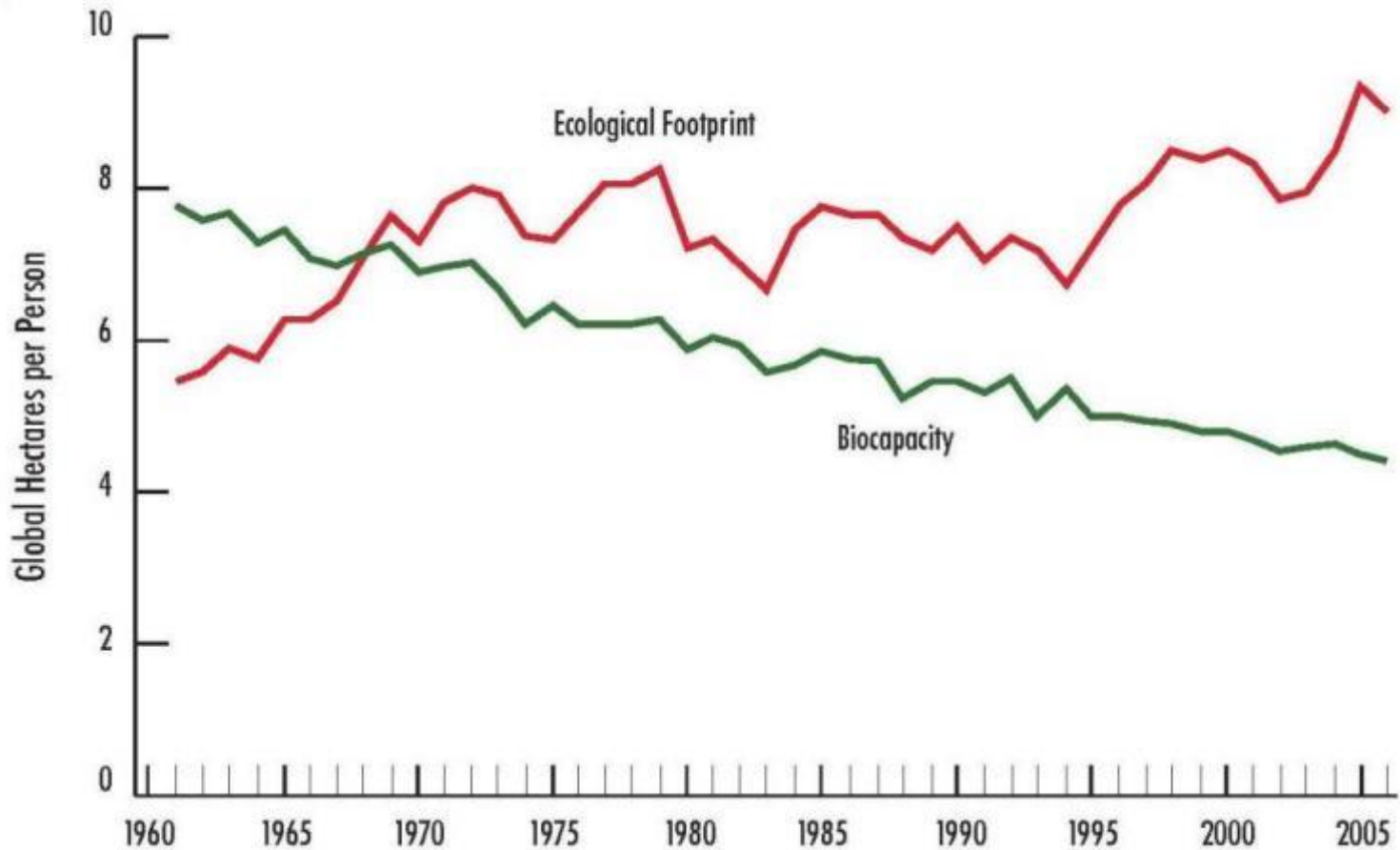


- New Heaven and Earth described as an actual place (Rev 21)
- Tree of life and river of life flowing through the city (Rev 22)
- Built and natural environment in harmony

How many Earths does it take to support humanity?

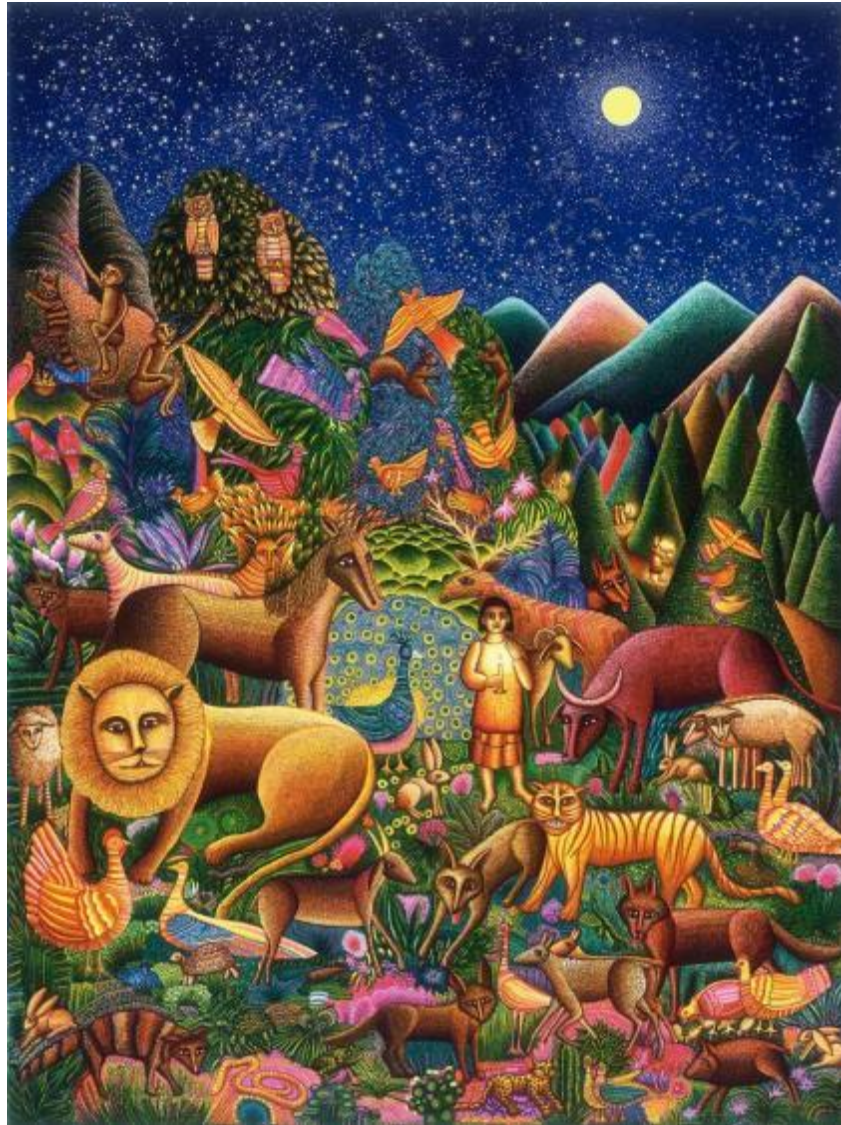


U.S. Ecological Footprint vs. Biocapacity, 1961-2006



Communities of color in the USA still have higher rates of exposure to air pollution and lead, citing near toxic waste and landfills, and disproportionately suffer the effects of climate change









Pendle Hill, 1652

Shalom

