Avery is a Co-Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries. He is an activist, ecologist, and public theologian working at the intersection of Christianity and environmental justice. Avery has a background in both ecological research and faith-based environmental organizing, studying ecology in various ecosystems and organizing faith communities across the country in support of action on environmental justice. Previously he has worked for Sojourners and Interfaith Power & Light. He serves on the board for The Center for Spirituality in Nature and is a Fellow with the Re:Generate Program at Wake Forest Divinity School and the Foundations of Christian Leadership Program at Duke Divinity School.

Avery has a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Sustainability from Pepperdine University, Master of Environmental Management in Ecosystem Science & Conservation with a certificate in Community-Based Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, and a Master of Theological Studies, with a certificate in Faith, Food & Environmental Justice from Duke Divinity School. His research focuses on the role of religious communities in building climate resilience and adaptation, with emphasis on the virtue of “climate hospitality.”
SAMPLE SPEAKING TOPICS

THE SCRIPTURAL ROOTS OF CREATION JUSTICE

- “Creation justice” may be a new term for some, but it is a concept deeply grounded in Christian theology and practice. It captures both the depth of our interconnectedness with everything and the necessity to partner with God in the healing and restoration of all -- God’s Shalom. In this sermon/workshop I draw on the scriptures to tell the story of creation justice in the Bible and how our communities can be partners with God in the work of healing the world.

CLIMATE CRISIS: BIBLICAL AND MODERN PROPHETS

- It is clear that the climate crisis is a problem of Old Testament proportions. The Biblical prophets -- particularly Jeremiah, Amos, and Exekiel -- can help us understand how to respond faithfully. In this sermon/workshop I draw connections between the Biblical prophets, our modern creation crisis, and the ecological prophets around us today.

HOSPITALITY IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CRISIS

- As climate disasters devastate communities and force God's creation into exile, how is the church to respond? In this sermon/workshop, I discuss how the climate crisis is an invitation into deeper forms of hospitality. I share the roots of hospitality in the Christian tradition, how it can be applied in the age of climate change, and stories of Christian communities practicing climate hospitality.

THE HOPE OF CREATION JUSTICE

- What does it mean to have hope in the midst of the creation crisis? In this sermon, I draw on the writings of Peter and others to develop a theology and ethic of living hope for our climate-changed world.

CREATION JUSTICE PREACHING BASED ON THE LECTIONARY TEXT

- I am always available to preach a creation justice sermon based on any given lectionary text. I have much experience preaching the lectionary and enjoy applying a "creation hermeneutic" to scripture.

Get in Touch!

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Please feel free to reach out for any questions.