



Climate Changed Podcast Discussion Guide
Season One, Episode Three
Created by Tyler Mark Nelson

Guest: Craig Santos Perez

Title: *What Do We Tell the Children?*

Listening excerpt: 9:15–15:44

Welcoming Activity

As an opening to deep and honest conversation about this episode, read aloud this prayer of blessing for all peoples. Linger on each line, and perhaps allow a moment of silence after each stanza. Invite the members of your group to reflect on the meaning of each line and on whose behalf we seek the blessing of God.

*Bless us in your divine grace.
Bless us in your divine grace,
bless us in your love,
and bless the bread on the tables,
the hands of those who work,
the dreams of those who resist,
who still sing and hope.*

*Bless us as we walk in your ways,
give us your strength and vision,
may your peace give an end to death,
to hate, and to all injustice;
bless us as we seek an abundant life.
Bless us.*

— Cláudio Carvalhaes, “Bless Us” in *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the End of the World*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2020)

Introduction

To Climate Changed Podcast

The BTS Center's new podcast, *Climate Changed*, offers intimate interviews and conversations around some of the most pressing questions about faith, life, and climate change. Hosted by [Ben Yosua-Davis](#), Director of Applied Research, and [Nicole Diroff](#), Program Director, and produced by [Peterson Toscano](#),

the podcast features acclaimed guests who are exploring what spiritual leadership looks and feels like in a climate-changed world.

To Episode

In this episode, Ben Yosua-Davis and poet Craig Santos Perez have a moving conversation about raising children in a time of climate change. Craig shares his thoughts about writing poetry as a way to draw people into deep conversations about ecology, politics, and other matters. He also reads two of his original poems.

Discussion Questions

1. Craig refers to Donna Haraway's idea of staying with the trouble. In her book by the same name, she writes: "In urgent times, many of us are tempted to address trouble in terms of making an imagined future safe, of stopping something from happening that looms in the future, of clearing away the present and the past in order to make futures for coming generations. Staying with the trouble does not require such a relationship to times called the future. In fact, staying with the trouble requires learning to be truly present, not as a vanishing pivot between awful or edenic pasts and apocalyptic or salvific futures, but as mortal critters entwined in myriad unfinished configurations of places, times, matters, meanings." What does staying with the trouble mean in your life, work, and relations?
2. The word 'entanglement' is mentioned a handful of times during this episode. What does entanglement mean? What examples come to mind in terms of multispecies kinship? Exploitative systems? Intergenerational relationships?
3. Have you faced the challenge of communicating the reality of climate change to a young person (maybe a family member, neighbor kid, student, etc)? How did it go? If you haven't done so, then why?
4. Nicole and Ben muse about the idea of framing educators and artists as climate professionals. What gifts do educators and creative persons offer in making sense of our climate-changed world? How might they help us to prepare children for the realities of climate change and other injustices?
5. In his poetry, Craig uses familiar themes and things (e.g., eating, food systems) to introduce his audience to deeper ethical, political, and ecological issues. What does this reveal to you about the capabilities of poetry and storytelling to expand our conversations about such issues? How can you bring this further into your communities?

Closing Activity

Read the poem by Craig Santos Perez, titled, "[Love in a Time of Climate Crisis](#)." As you move throughout this next week, consider what it means to love the other-than-human world in a time of ecological breakdown.