

This Changes Everything: Even the Church?

Could Naomi Klein's new movie on climate change prompt Christians to change the way they do church and live out their faith?

When Naomi Klein was invited to speak at a Vatican press conference after the release of Pope Francis's encyclical on climate change, she found a faith perspective that resonated with both her own analysis of the problem's root causes and her own hopes for the future. In an article for [The New Yorker](#) about her Vatican experience, Klein wrote that "if transformation is as contagious as it seems to be here—well, we might just stand a chance of tackling climate change." While Klein's new movie on climate change does not speak of the Christian faith, it would be impossible to watch it without finding numerous resonances between the views discussed by Klein and the views—good and bad—that Christians have articulated about the relationship of humans to God's creation.

Klein's climate change movie "This Changes Everything" is now available on [iTunes](#), and it lends itself well for church movie nights or green team house parties. Below you can find faith-oriented discussion questions for the movie along with resources for those who are inspired to do more. Klein says that if climate change is taken seriously, it will change everything. It might even change the church.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Klein says that for hundreds of years science has proclaimed that humans have God-like powers to sculpt the natural world around us and extract from it what we want. She declares that science turned mother earth into the motherlode. Earth became a machine, and we were to be its masters. Klein questions this view by asking if instead of being masters of the earth, humans are guests who could get evicted for bad behavior. How would you compare and contrast these different perspectives with various Christian perspectives on our relationship to God's creation?
- 2) In Matthew 6:24, we are told that one cannot serve two masters. One "cannot serve God and wealth." How would you compare and contrast this biblical view with Klein's assessment that the current climate change battle is against "the logic and domination of growth at any cost" and the system of capitalism as a whole?
- 3) The movie highlights places of active struggle and places where positive changes have taken place. Where do you catch glimpses of God's beloved community bursting through in the movement to address climate change? Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work?
- 4) Klein states, "If climate change is taken seriously, it changes everything." How might climate change prompt Christians to change how they do church and live out their faith?
- 5) In the movement for climate justice, what are the next steps that can be taken in your community of faith?

Further Resources

In addition to the further resources mentioned at the end of the movie, consider these faith-based resources:



- 1) Connect with an interfaith organization like [Interfaith Power and Light](#), [GreenFaith](#), or [Earth Ministry](#). Become involved in their programs, actions, and green congregation initiatives.
- 2) Stay informed of new ideas, resources, and actions by subscribing to “The Pollinator: The Environmental Justice Newsletter for the UCC.” Receive the newsletter by email every two weeks by emailing ecojustice@ucc.org and typing “subscribe” in the subject line.
- 3) Participate in a November 14th day of action endorsed by the United Church of Christ that calls upon governments to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. Learn more at [Stop Funding Fossil Fuels](#) or check the website of the [Pollinator](#) for updates.

Note on Viewing Permission

“This Changes Everything” can be shown without a license for gatherings of up to 30 people, so long as the screening is not an event advertised to the public. For public events, licenses can be purchased at [Tugg.com](#).

