

JOHN MUIR EARTH, PLANET, UNIVERSE



“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe” *My First Summer in the Sierra* by John Muir, 1911

“When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty.” *Travels in Alaska* by John Muir, 1915

The stark climate breakdown we see taking place in the world today threatens the future of the delicately balanced ecosystems of our planet. Were he alive today, Muir would rage at the destruction of nature in the name of progress. John Muir would be an activist and a campaigner for change and climate justice.

He has been called the ‘protector of the wilds’ but John Muir saw himself as an ordinary citizen of the universe, and in fact wrote his address as



‘I’m truly sorry Man’s dominion
Has broken Nature’s social union,
An’ justifies that ill opinion
Which makes thee startle
At me, thy poor, earth-born companion
An’ fellow-mortal!’ From ‘To a Mouse’ – Robert Burns

“We are now at a time in history where everyone with any insight of the climate crisis that threatens our civilisation and the entire biosphere must speak out. In clear language. No matter how uncomfortable and unprofitable that may be” No one is too small to make a difference

Greta Thunberg: 2019

We must ACT NOW

Muir was part of a continuum – he was inspired by those before him and went on to influence many others to value and protect the natural environment and to understand its crucial role in our survival. His story together with that of his forerunners and those who followed illustrate how social, political and economic issues are closely connected to environmental devastation and climate crisis.

We can look to John Muir and others to create a new story for our future and for our communities.

now you see it



photo: William O. Field

now you don't



photo: Bruce F. Molnia

Muir Glacier, Alaska: August 13, 1941 and August 31, 2004



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“The moment of crisis has come, we can no longer prevaricate...every year that passes makes the steps we have to take more and more difficult to achieve”

Sir David Attenborough: 2019