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We kindly invite all interested colleagues, students, and the larger public to participate in the lecture, which will be given by

## Dr. Christophe Monnot

Associate Professor, University of Strasbourg,  
Faculty of Protestant Theology

# The Greening of the Church



October 25, 2024, at 14.00 - 15.00

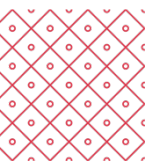
In Room D, 2nd floor, PTF CU, Černá 646/9, Prague 1

The lecture will be given in English.

Charles University  
Protestant Theological Faculty  
Černá 646/9  
110 00 Prague 1  
[www.etf.cuni.cz](http://www.etf.cuni.cz)



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## Abstract

Although Pope Francis's Encyclical, *Laudato Si* (2015), has marked an important step in the process of the greening of the Churches, ecology has been part of the theological debate of the Christian Churches for a long time. The reflection on a Christian spirituality integrating the ecological dimension followed a slow maturation before this encyclical. Symbolically, one of the markers of ecological awareness in Christianity is Lynn White Jr. 1967 conference on the Christian roots of the ecological crisis. This reflection was first conducted within the World Council of Churches. It has enabled the formation of an elite (both Protestant and Orthodox) who have promoted green spirituality in the theology of these churches. The Pope's encyclical is the latest step in this process. However, another movement, the one of the parishioners, which began at the turn of the century with the popularization of green spirituality has to be mentioned. The members of the churches of the social and progressive Christian trend then demanded that the local parishes and churches take ecology into account both in the liturgy and in the local management of the parish. However, these two movements, which are pushing for a greening of the churches, are not succeeding in producing truly edible results. In any case, this is what we have observed in the context of ethnographic research in Switzerland supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation since 2017. We will present here several cases of local ecological initiatives and show how they are slowed down by different institutional processes. Although part of the grassroots and an elite are defending an ecological approach, we will discuss different blocking mechanism that prevents the Swiss churches from moving words to action.

