

DALMENY KIRK AND QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK OCTOBER, 2021

Overall theme for October: We stand on Holy Ground

While the COP26 Conference takes place in November, I have chosen October as the month for us to look at the environmental issues which we are facing as a nation and as a world – and to consider how we as Christians should respond.

Week 2 Crucified Earth

Words from the campaigning group Earth First:

The earth is dying, it is being murdered, and the people murdering it have names and addresses.

God said to Moses: Take off your sandals because you are standing on holy ground. (Exodus 3 v.5)

Introduction

Invisible we see you, Christ beneath us

With earthly eyes we see beneath you stones and dust and dross, fit subjects for the analyst's table.

But with the eye of faith, we know you uphold. In you all things consist and hang together:

The very atom is life energy, the grass is vibrant, the rocks pulsate.

All is in flux; turn but a stone and an angel moves.

Very Rev. Lord George MacLeod of Fuinary

Opening Responses

O God, who called all life into being,

THE EARTH, SEA AND SKY ARE YOURS

Your presence is all around us,

EVERY ATOM IS FULL OF YOUR ENERGY

Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

WITH HER WE YEARN FOR JUSTICE TO BE DONE

For creation to be freed from bondage

FOR THE HUNGRY TO BE FED

For captives to be released,

FOR YOUR KINGDOM OF PEACE TO COME ON EARTH.

Hymns which might be read or listened to:

How great thou art

Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure

Read Psalm 8

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are alive and vibrant in the natural world. You are in every tree, every flower, in every living stone, in every person.

Forgive us for the ways in which we daily crucify you:

When we are unjust to others

When we show prejudice

When we only pay lip service to following your will for us
When we treat your land badly
When we pollute the air and the sea
When we waste precious resources
Forgive us for the ways we betray your trust in us to be your hands on earth.
Forgive us for we know not what we do.
And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus taught his disciples:

OUR FATHER

Read Luke 23 verses 26 – 43

Reflection

You might reflect on whether the ways in which we are damaging the earth and the environment is in any way similar to the crucifixion of Jesus.

The creation narratives give human beings dominion over the earth and over all living creatures. In what ways have we failed to be good stewards? (If you decide to take this line, you may wish to read a small part of the creation narrative from Genesis 1)

If Jesus came back to earth today how would he respond to what is happening in the world?

There are many other ideas and you may wish to use a video or pictures, music or silence.

Prayer

The focus of our prayers this month will be on the environmental issues which surround us and the crisis which faces our world if we do not take action; world leaders as they meet in Glasgow to discuss those issues and make decisions; ourselves as we respond to those issues. We will also pray for our communities, our churches and for those in especial need of our prayers.

CLOSING PRAYER (SAID TOGETHER)

**O CHRIST THERE IS NO PLANT IN THE GROUND
WHICH IS NOT FULL OF YOUR VIRTUE.
THERE IS NO LIFE IN THE SEA,
THERE IS NO CREATURE IN THE OCEAN,
THERE IS NOTHING IN THE HEAVENS
WHICH DOES NOT PROCLAIM YOUR GOODNESS.
THERE IS NO BIRD ON THE WING,
THERE IS NO STAR IN THE SKY,
THERE IS NOTHING BENEATH THE SUN
WHICH DOES NOT PROCLAIM YOUR GOODNESS.
AMEN.**