

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 4 What a Waste

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

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.

Edmund Burke

Opening Responses

Creator God, in whose image we are made and in whose sight everyone and everything are precious

WE ARE HERE TO PRAISE AND SERVE YOU

Redeeming God, by whose grace we are renewed

WE ARE HERE TO PRAISE AND SERVE YOU

Sustaining Spirit, by whose love all creation is embraced

WE ARE HERE TO PRAISE AND SERVE YOU

Creative, redeeming, sustaining God, your world is miraculous and wonderful; your love for us is amazing.

LET US SING ALOUD IN PRAISE OF OUR CREATOR

Rather than singing aloud in praise of our creator you might want to read or listen to a hymn of creation e.g. "All creatures of our God and King"; "Great is thy faithfulness".

Read Psalm 24

Prayer

Creator God, open our hearts to the wonder of your world. Help us to see its true value and to be good stewards of creation.

Redeeming Christ, change our attitudes and priorities; help us as we strive to follow your example.

Sustaining Spirit, support and strengthen us as we seek practical ways towards a gentler and more sustainable lifestyle.

Transform us and lead us into action.

God, forgive us for the amount of our rubbish we send to landfill sites with all the resulting damage to your world. So often we say that we will do better but then we become careless. For our carelessness with your creation:

NURTURING GOD, HAVE MERCY, FORGIVE AND CHANGE US

God, forgive us for the thoughtless ways we often use more fuel and water than we need and for the times when we could reuse our goods rather than throwing them away and replacing them. For our careless extravagance:

NURTURING GOD, HAVE MERCY, FORGIVE AND CHANGE US

God, forgive us when we forget that you have created the wonderful world in which we live and that we are your stewards. For our forgetfulness and lack of commitment:

NURTURING GOD, HAVE MERCY, FORGIVE AND CHANGE US

And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus taught his disciples:

OUR FATHER

Read **Genesis 1 verses 1 – 13**
 Matthew 14 verses 15 – 20

Reflection

There are lots of imaginative ways in which we can share the challenges of waste, not just of food but of so

many other things as well. There is so much material available – in print and online. Hopefully we can have discussion in the group.

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 Responses

This is the day that God has made

WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT

We will not offer to God

OFFERINGS THAT COST US NOTHING

Go in peace to love and to serve

WE WILL SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT

In the name of the Trinity of love

GOD IN COMMUNITY, HOLY AND ONE.

AMEN.

The material has been adapted from “Creation Care and Climate Change” by Roland Heersink and from “Holy Ground”, an Iona Community resource edited by Neil Paynter and Helen Boothroyd

