

Sunday 14 November – (New Creation) Preacher - Glenn Loughrey preaching

Isaiah 40.21-31; Ps 24; Rev 21.1-7; Luke 7.1-10

Bible Study Leader: Carolane

1. A Quotation by Pope Francis

“Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will;
Or, even less, is the property of only a few: ...
We care for it and we use it for the benefit of all,
Always with great respect and gratitude.”¹

- What insights can you draw about creation from Pope Francis’ quote above?

2. A Reflection

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and lived among us. (John 1:1,14)

As we come to the end of this season there is one figure who has been present across all our reflections, whose life and being has inspired all who we have met on our journey, and that is Jesus himself.

John begins his gospel with that beautiful reflection on the Word made flesh, or as Maximus the Confessor put it—‘the word becomes thick’. The one who spoke all life into being breathes our air and walks our lanes and cries our tears, creator become creature, word become thick.

In doing so, as Gerard Manley Hopkins put it in his poem *That Nature Is A Heraclitean Fire*, ‘I am all at once what Christ is, | since he was what I am’, or to quote Graham Kendrick’s *Meekness and Majesty*, Christ ‘lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne’.

But both of those quotes, powerful as they are, fall shy of the fullness of what Christ has done which concerns far more than just human life. The cosmic scope is perhaps best expressed in Paul’s letter to the Colossians where he wrote that through Jesus, ‘God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.’

In Christ all things are brought to the heights of his throne, every chaffinch² and every child, every adult and every adder, every person and every pine and every part of every planet is reconciled to God and filled with new hope because the Word became flesh and lived among us.³

- Take some time today to reflect back on this season of Creationtide. How has it helped you follow Jesus more closely as you walk in his world?

3. Read Revelation 21:1-7 (see Isaiah 65:17-19 and 1 Peter 3:12-13)

Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

¹ Pope Francis Audience 21.05.14

² A “chaffinch is a small North African finch.

³ Week 5 Day Seven of Daily Reflections, Creationtide Resources, Church of England.

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Daily-Reflections-for-Creationtide-A4.pdf>.)

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

Isaiah 65:17-19

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

1 Peter 3:12-13

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

- How does John describe the new heaven and new earth in Revelation 21?
- How are you encouraged by this vision of fulfilment of God’s creational purpose?
- How do we prepare to share in this new heaven and new earth?