

A Personal Commitment to Creation Discipleship

Bishop Jane Alexander

Holy week to Easter

Wednesday, April 13

Scripture

John 1:1-4a

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life.

Reflection

From the beginning of time our origin and destiny is bound up with the earth itself. John's Gospel starts with a blast of the Genesis story. And then in a miraculous way Jesus was born as one of us, a living, breathing human being in a particular part of the world. A place you can visit, see the landscape he saw, eat the fruits of the land he ate, and see in the faces of the people of Nazareth a reflection of the features of his mother and family. Transcendent glory taking earthy visceral form.

Julian of Norwich in Revelations of Divine Love said: "And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, 'What may this be?' And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.' I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it."

Prayer

In the beginning – creation.

The heavens, the earth, Jesus and us.

One story.

Light piercing darkness.

Order coming to chaos

New life came with Jesus

So life should be found wherever Jesus is to be found.

*When people ask you why Christians need to be committed to creation care,
to love the earth, the answer is God made it, God loves it, God keeps it.*

Bishop Jane Alexander, Diocese of Edmonton

*O God of eternal light,
heaven and earth are the work of your hands, and all creation sings your praise and beauty.
As in the beginning, by your Spirit,
you gave life and order to all that is,
so by the same Spirit redeem us and all things,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Book of Occasional Celebrations*

Neonatal clinic in Burundi saving babies

MuhimpunduEduige was suffering from a fever and malaria, not an ideal condition when you're in labour. She was rushed to the Kigutu Hospital in Burundi, which recently added a neonatal wing with support from PWRDF and its partner Village Health Works. As soon as her baby was born, he was whisked away by doctors.

“After the delivery, the doctors all ran, I was scared because I did not know why,” Muhimpundu said. “After they explained to me that the baby is in a machine that he spent a few days there [to] help him breathe better.”

Ndayishimiye Don Divin was born prematurely, weighing less than four pounds. His mother credits the Village Health Works Clinic for saving his life.

“I'm blessed to live close to VHW clinic, if I was in other health centre or surrounding hospitals, my child would be dead for sure.”

After the birth of Don Divin, Muhimpundu told other pregnant women coming to the clinic that they were in good hands. “I will never thank enough the doctors who helped and supported me, God bless them all. I say thank you to Kigutu Hospital. I seen many other pregnant women coming here, I can testify to them that they are in good hands,” she said while smiling down at her son.

The neonatal service at the clinic was made possible with support of the All Mothers and Children Count program funded by PWRDF with a 6:1 match from Global Affairs Canada. The clinic will continue to work hard to save the lives of other children like Don Divin. “This is my first child and I was afraid of losing him. I say thank you to Kigutu Hospital.”

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/neonatal-clinic-in-burundi-saving-babies>