

A Personal Commitment to Creation Discipleship

Bishop Jane Alexander

Holy week to Easter

Good Friday April 15

Scripture

John 12:24

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Reflection

There have been and will continue to be unintended consequences for our environment due to our choices and behaviours, but study and prayer can help us to become more conscious of the human impact on our planet. Today Jesus experiences earthly death as will we all. Formed of the dust and to dust we shall return. But in those dark places of the earth life waits to be born, as was ordained from the very beginning. Therefore there is reason to hope for the renewing and reconciling of our relationship with all creation. God's work of creation continues in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. This story carries on in us, in every action and every word.

Jesus pours himself out for us. On this Holy Friday we are challenged to see what we are prepared to pour out for him, emptying ourselves. Committing to live lives that honour all that has been given and done for us. The gospel of hope teaches that the world of God possesses unbelievable healing power and that change can take place within a single generation to the benefit of those who come after us. We stand on the threshold of resurrection not incarnation, so perhaps I am not being fanciful to say that on Easter Sunday 'the weary world rejoices' because all that is, or has been, or ever will be, is reunited through the sacrifice of Jesus.

I invite you to read "The World is still our host," a statement by Anglican bishops from throughout the Communion meeting at Volmoed Conference Centre, South Africa, February 23-27, 2015.

<https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/148818/e-World-is-our-Host-FINAL-TEXT.pdf>

Prayer

*Akin to every creature I will learn
From each and all the meaning of my birth
I love the dust to which I will return
The subtle substance of my mother earth.
Malcolm Guite, excerpt from "Out in the elements"*

*The whole creation was changed by fear,
when it saw Thee, O Christ,
hanging on the Cross.
The sun was darkened
and the foundations of the earth were shaken;
all things suffered with the Creator of all.
Of Thine own will Thou hast endured this for our sakes:
O Lord, glory to Thee.
Orthodox prayer*

Training for disaster preparedness

IN MARCH, Anglicans from throughout the Caribbean have been taking part in a “Pastors and Disasters” workshop in Grenada. The workshop has been organised and hosted by the Church of the Province of the West Indies with the global Anglican Alliance, the US-based Episcopal Relief & Development, and The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund. It was staged following a number of natural disasters and climate change-related events to hit the island nations.

Read the whole story at

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/03/anglicans-from-caribbean-dioceses-train-for-disaster-preparedness-and-resilience.aspx>