

One World, One Faith, Many Nations

Bishop Jane Alexander

Fourth Week of Lent

Saturday April 2

Scripture

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God

Reflection

The reflection today is to watch a video from the incredible Joel McKerrow, an award winning writer, speaker, educator and performance poet. Based out of Melbourne, Australia, he is the Artist Ambassador for the aid and development organization, Tearfund Australia.

Let's just say, just purely hypothetically of course, I know it's completely ridiculous but what if we had, only ONE planet, just one. One planet to live on. One planet to eat and breathe from. One planet to make our day upon, make our way upon, make our cities upon, sink our teeth into, one ocean, one sky, one people, one life, one time we can make this right...

We argue the science. Forgetting the maths, the earth is a birthday cake and if there are ten people at the party and only one cake and I eat the whole thing then somebody must be starving to death around here. If everybody ate cake at the same rate that I do, we would need three more chocolate velvet and dirt. We have eaten too much of this earth...

I have taken much more than my fair share. Forget about the maths, what about the people? What about Rosalia from Mozambique? Her crops are washed away by the floods that only ever came once in a lifetime, yet now they rush the shore every other day...

We forget, because it is easier this way, the bliss of ignorance, the kiss of indifference. Yet from the bottom of this ocean, to the tips of the tops of the peaks that touch the sky, to the cities and the factories on the surface of her skin, to the smoke and the smut that we cover her in, we forget that we have only ever had one planet, one ocean, one sky, one people, one life for one time, and that we can make this right.

Happy Birthday World.

Let us blow out the candles of our indifference. And this year, I promise to eat less cake.

ONE PLANET

A video from Tearfund Australia which asks the question: ‘What if we had only ONE planet, just one?’
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SljoYa4gd2g>

Prayer

*Creator, you bent the earth like a bow until it was one, round, shining planet.
At your word the land was drawn into mountains and tundra, forests and prairies;
the waters were gathered together into rivers, lakes and seas.
Many times, when people crossed these seas from other lands
they broke the circle of your creation by their greed and violence
and they shattered the lives of others.
Creator renew the circle of the earth
and turn the hearts of all people to one another;
that they and all the earth may live and be drawn toward you
through the love of Jesus Christ,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit
in the circle of the Trinity, forever One. Amen
A Prayer to the Four Directions, adapted and revised from the prayer used at the National Cathedral,
Washington, D.C. in A Celebration of Native American Survival Service, 1992*

PWRDF supports Australian bushfire appeal

AS CANADIANS watch the fires engulf Australia with no signs of abating, PWRDF has been in contact with our counterparts there: the Australian Board of Mission and Anglican Overseas Aid, both agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia and fellow members of the Anglican Alliance.

While the Australian government has pledged \$2 billion in relief spending, Anglicans in Canada are still keen to support Australians dealing with this disaster. In consultation with both Anglican agencies, PWRDF is today announcing a \$5,000 solidarity grant to be given to the Anglican Board of Mission’s bushfire appeal which has been set up to accept overseas donations. Those wishing to give to this cause may do so through PWRDF (see below).

Anglican Overseas Aid primarily focuses its funding on overseas relief and development work, but is now supporting the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Trust’s bushfire emergency relief fund, says Tim Hartley, Disaster Response and Resilience Coordinator for AOA. “This will provide relief and support to those in need across the Victorian dioceses impacted (currently this is predominantly in the north and eastern parts of the state). It’s important to stress that we’re only halfway through the bushfire season so we have a few more months to go — the emergency services, volunteers and communities have more trials ahead.”

Read the whole story on our website at
<https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-supports-australian-bushfire-appeal>

Tomorrow:
*The Fifth Sunday in Lent, take a Sabbath rest
and reflect on last week’s readings*