

Incarnation and Redemption – A Natural Connection

Rev. Patrick Stephens

Fifth Week of Lent

Tuesday April 5

Scripture

Psalm 111:9

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

Reflection

A definitive theme in Christian theology is that of redemption. As followers of Jesus, we believe that Christ has provided a way by which we can be saved from sin.

Sadly, we know a lot about sin. We are quite familiar with the harm of which we are all capable (and culpable). We hurt ourselves, each other, and creation itself. Appointed as stewards of creation, humanity collectively fails routinely at caring for that sacred gift that sustains us. We are now urgently aware that the planet is at the precipice of a major climate crisis. But what can we do?

Christ's message of redemption assures us that it is never too late to be saved. Even death appears to be powerless before the salvation of God in Christ.

But redemption involves a change of direction, a change of behaviour. Most of us are very new to environmental activism and stewardship. Some of us are barely getting by as things are and cannot bear to think of how becoming active in environmentalism would affect our lives.

Through a dedicated effort of education and engagement, PWRDF and their partners around the world are taking small steps to help ordinary people like us take small steps to care for creation. This is important work because it is directly related to Christ's universal offer of redemption.

Prayer

*Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored
our human nature.*

*May we share the divine life
of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself
to share our humanity,*

*and now lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.*

Collect for Christmas Day, Book of Alternative Services

Planting the seeds of education focus

The program launched January 28 with a webinar that included prayer with the Rev. Ken Gray, some basic climate change information, examples of PWRDF partners' work around climate change and guide to PWRDF resources. The recording can be viewed [here](#). Where to begin

Many Parish and Diocesan Representatives indicated an interest in climate change and requested more support in promoting it as a theme of PWRDF's work. In consulting a small focus group and surveying a wider group of supporters, we determined an education focus would help us engage our supporters in prayer, learning and action.

We hope to bring the perspective of how climate change is affecting the developing world and how it is being addressed. We know that we have much to learn from our partners and hope our volunteers will be able to take that learning to their parishes, communities and families.

On the PWRDF website, our Climate Action page includes resources and education opportunities. Though PWRDF will not be focusing on how you can make your parish more eco-friendly, we will share that information and links to campaign websites as we are able.

We will leverage Anglican and ecumenical initiatives such as For the Love of Creation to provide ways to get involved within Canada.

What's next?

There are many exciting ideas in the works

- We will be creating videos and study guides that you can use to lead discussions in your communities or parishes.
- We will offer webinars that focus on Climate Action as it relates to PWRDF's work, including Food Security, Health, Women's Empowerment, Indigenous Peoples, Emergency Response, Refugees and Engaging Youth.
- We will continue to encourage the use of the resources that were prepared in 2020 including the seven Climate Action Leaflets. Use them as bulletin inserts if you are worshipping in-person, read them at in-person or online services, or include them in online bulletins or parish e-mails.
- We also encourage using the worship resource "A Covenant for Climate Justice." A Service of the Word and a Eucharist service are available to use in whole or in part. There is even a sermon to deliver or download the video to share with your community.
- We will share ways to get involved with the For the Love of Creation Campaign, including participating in advocacy and hosting climate change conversations.

We realize that this pandemic is not going to be over in the near future, so we expect that activities in 2021 will continue to be online. As public health guidelines allow, we hope to offer more face-to-face

gatherings, including a course at the Sorrento Centre in British Columbia, and a visit to one of our partners.

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/planting-the-seeds-of-education-focus/>