

- Sermon for 09:30 All Age
- OK – so we've had 2 readings from the Bible today : the really long one from the book of Genesis – is that Old Testament or New Testament? – Old – it's right at the beginning of the bible so it's got to be Old Testament hasn't it?
- And so the other is likely to be fromthe New Testamentyeswe always have a reading from one of the Gospels – this time it is Matthew- when we have a Communion service
- And the readings for the day have some kind of connection
- Can you think of bits that connect the story of creation and the gospel reading ? descriptions of things that God has created?
 - flowers and Day 3 land and vegetation
 - birds and Day 5 creatures of sea and sky
- Looking at the creation story in Genesis 1 , we see that first of all the spaces are formed on days 1-3 and then the creatures to fill the spaces in days 4-6, with humans being the pinnacle of creation – made in the image of God and having dominion over all things , but actually on the same day as other land creatures so we mustn't get too above ourselves – we didn't actually get a whole day dedicated to ourselves!
- Human beings get mentioned in both as well
- Which day of creation? 6
- what does God say about humans and the flowers and the birds? we are more value so if God looks after the flowers and the birds , then he will definitely look after us won't he?
- So Jesus is telling us that God really values us , he loves us
- We need all of creation- if you were the richest person in the world so you and your friends could get in your private planes and move to the highest places in the world so you could escape all the floods and hurricanes and forest fires and land being drowned by the sea and parts of the world becoming so hot you couldn't live there and nothing could growbut what would be the point if there wasn't anywhere where you grow food to eat or have people to mine the minerals you need for your better and better computers, mobile phones, ipads, smart technology, and no companies left to make you even more money and eventually nothing to spend your money on.....it may sound scary but the climate crisis is taking us that way because we are not seriously doing things to stop global heating, or clogging up the oceans with plastic rubbish
- Let's build a pyramid with these shoeboxes with pictures on, in a similar way to the creation story we heard earlier to see what happens if we damage the rest of creation in a very big way.....(get kids/youth to come out to help)
- Air – Water – Soil
- next : Creatures from the sea, air and land except humans – Vegetation

at the top: Humans – biggest box (one of the pictures on it is Donald Trump)because we are in charge of everything – true enough God gave us the power over all creation (but He made us in His image)

- Does anyone have asthma? What if we polluted the air we breathe so much fossil fuels – petrol – CO 2 and particulates that cause breathing and heart problems that there wasn't any more fresh air – *knock brick out of wall :whole pyramid comes crashing down*
 - without fresh clean air :
 - the animals birds and fish would die, the plants would die , and humans would die
 - *(rebuild the pyramid)*
- What if we filled up the seas with plastic and rubbish so much and let the oceans warm up and become acidic because the temperature in the world kept going up?
 - what lives in the sea would die- ask for names....dophins, turtles,

- and coral would die – Great Barrier Reef
- and there wouldn't be any fresh water – so animals and humans would die
- *knock brick out of wall :whole pyramid comes crashing down....(build back up)*
- Ok so let's look at the brick called Earth/Soil What if we put so many pesticides and chemicals and fertilisers in the soil and took all the goodness out by growing the same crop over and over again in huge fields? Dusty. poor soils- think of those photos from Africa with ground cracked and dried up – dusty soils can't hold water when it does rain
 - the plants and flowers would die
 - the animals and the fish and the birds wouldn't have anything to eat
 - humans wouldn't have any meat or vegetables or fruit to eat and would die
 - *knock brick out of wall :whole pyramid comes crashing down....(build back up)*
- So you can see God put us at the top of the pyramid but that means we have to look after the bits lower down the pyramid otherwise it means big problems for us!

I hope you can see from what we've been doing that we as Christians have a responsibility to look after all of creation, so any action you can do to help combat the climate crisis will be great.

And a question for us all to think about –

Can we as individual Christians truly be saved by the cross of Jesus if we do nothing to save the rest of God's creation which is being destroyed largely by our own hands?

Amen

K Nice 16.2.20



Pyramid developed from an idea in Get Messy! magazine May-Aug 2018