

Sermon 1 August 2021 "Climate Sunday" All Age Family Communion Service: Colossians 1:15-20, John 6:24-35

Ok so what has the Climate Crisis got to do with Jesus and why is it important for Christians to get to grips with it?

Christians believe that God created the world - in the beginning it was all in the right balance, different eco systems, food chains , thousands and thousands of different types of animals, bugs, plants and us .

But humans got a little bit too clever and started to lose the connection between nature and people and how they should work together- the industrial revolution happened and humans got too greedy and too separated from their own lives and the interconnection with something much bigger - God's love - and the balance shifted so that we are now causing a huge crisis.

"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life"
"Jesus said I am the bread of life."

This sounds a bit strange but what Jesus really means is that if we try and follow him , he can give us energy and fulfilment and self worth andall through God's love for each one of us and when we have that kind of energy , we can do amazing things .

And with the climate crisis we need to do amazing things !

Global warming is increasing and a lot of it could be stopped if all the countries stopped burning oil and gas and coal, because these fossil fuels create CO2 and we have way too much now, which traps the sun's heat and warms our climate

- Hands up who has central heating in their house?
- Hands up who has gas or oil fired central heating?
- Hands up who has electric heating?
- Anyone got anything different? (wood burning stove, air source/ground source heat pump)
- OK so it's cold in winter and we want to stay warm, but we want to help fight the climate crisis...
- Think about yourselves. Hands up who would just wear a T-shirt (and something on your bottom half too of course!) in winter in your house. Glad to see no one putting their hands up because it would mean your house was too warm and you were using too much fuel!
- (*KNPut on coat and hat*)- ok so it's winter and I'm going outside - I want to stay warm so I put on coat, hat - I don't go out in T-shirt

We can do something to keep our houses warmer that is a bit like that- not put a coat on them but have curtains/blinds and double glazing.

- Hands up who has curtains or blinds in their house?

That way too we don't need the heating on so high and we use less fuel. Good for the planet and good for our bank balances. Remember the words "double glazing " as you'll hear them again in a minute.

"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life"
"Jesus said I am the bread of life". Let's follow Jesus and ask him to help us make good choices to live more sustainably- to show love to creation and to tackle the climate crisis.

All of God's creation is special - you and I are special, there are lots of different things that are special and that God loves - children go to north aisle and children's corner and find the pictures and take to Father Andrew

And while the children are doing that, some of us are going to tell you about our next targets to go for our silver Eco Church award in the A Rocha scheme. A Rocha , which

means Rock in Portuguese is a Christian Environment Charity which has set up an award scheme to encourage churches of all denominations to become more sustainable and environmentally aware.

Worship: "Caring for God's earth to feature as a teaching theme in our church's children's work at least annually". We hope that Junior Church and Messy Church could make bug and bee hotels (bundles of hollow sticks for bugs to overwinter in) as they learn about the importance of looking after all God's creation

Land : To encourage native wildlife on our church land through the provision of bug hotels, " This could be done through an activity at Junior or Messy Church as just mentioned! And added to the bee and butterfly garden next to the hall. We have worked every Saturday morning with a small group of families in the Bee Garden.

Buildings: To replace the Church Hall windows and doors with double glazing to improve insulation, starting with the entrance area. This will mean we use less energy and reduce our carbon footprint.

Community & Global Engagement : We have 2 immediate aims here:

1 Being part of Tearfund's Toilet twinning.org scheme- By donating £60 to twin each toilet, we are helping fund a project in a poor community overseas that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene, improving the environment around them . We have also twinned one bin (£45) so far, providing money towards rubbish collection and recycling in Haiti to stop rubbish being thrown into the rivers or being burned creating toxic air pollution.

2 Helping sow a wildflower area at Ivel Springs in part of Rotary's new wood/meadow collecting and using seeds from native flowers in the Bee and Butterfly Garden - sharing the natural resource from our churchyard to the wider community. At the end of the service you all will be able to take an envelope of seeds as well , as a symbol of sharing God's love going out into the world.

Lifestyle: "Encourage church members to use food at home that is LOAF: Locally Grown, Organic, Animal Friendly, Fairtrade."

Locally grown means the distance the food has travelled is less - using less fuel, and is seasonal;

Organic means no chemicals or pesticides , so it's better for the environment too;

Animal friendly : the extreme is vegan food - good for reducing global warming as cows give off methane which is worse than CO2

Fairtrade means farmers in developing countries get paid a decent wage; examples banana, chocolate, tea and coffee.

- Hands up who likes strawberries/ apples/ tomatoes - we need bees for these foods to grow. Bees feed on the nectar in flowers - which is why we started the bee garden 5 years ago- (vital because there are fewer hedges now, more pesticides and weedkiller, so a lot fewer wildflowers for bees to feed on) and why we're going to hand out little envelopes of seed from our bee garden which you can scatter in your gardens or even a roadside verge....to make more corridors for bees to find food.

"Jesus said I am the bread of life. " Let's follow Jesus together , let him transform us and ask him to help us make good choices to live thinking of others in this country and in the poorest parts of the world - to show love to all creation and ask those in power to tackle the climate crisis in a big way **now.**

Amen

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