

- Bible and Climate Change -Ascension Day 5 minutes talk 26.5.22
- Where is our sense of wonder at the beauty of the natural world?
- Do we still gaze in awe at a stunning sunset or majestic mountains, a beautifully patterned flower or fully appreciate a buzzing bee inadvertently collecting pollen as it feeds on nectar and then connects with the next flower and allows fruit and vegetables to be produced for us to eat.
- Surely these are, for Christians, amazing examples of God's creation and that fill us with joy and thanksgiving and inspire us to want to act to protect and preserve the natural world which is so much under threat?
- Doesn't Ascension Day and this marvellous service also fill you with joy and praise when we feel earth and heaven have come close - when Jesus and his love for us is empowering and all-embracing and we sense his divine presence amongst us through our worship and in bread and wine and in God's blessing.
- Is God going to let all that joy, all that amazing delicate interconnectedness of nature and life on earth be swept away by mankind's unceasing greed and exploitation of fossil fuels which is leading to global overheating and the climate crisis?
- No, I agree with Andrew, God is going to save his creation, but it may not be many of us or the bits we like, but he will be faithful to his promise to renew the earth.
- **However I feel we can't just do nothing to help our marvellous planet survive-** - there is a great danger of apathy or mild mannered complacency, or pure terror on our part to address the dreadful changes that are already taking place across our planet which humans have inflicted each other and there will be worse.
- Did God set us humans above all the rest of creation?
- Only in the sense that he gave us, made in His image, the responsibility to care for his creation as part of the balanced interdependent ecosystem - we humans are only just waking up to seeing we need that balance for us to survive. But let's keep hold of the fact that God's love is stronger than death and evil and we will be strengthened by Him to move forward. There is suffering already, but
 - Romans 5 :3-5...." *suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us"*
- Christ gives us the courage to face suffering rather than pretend it isn't there, to face truth with His love and guidance, to seek help.
- Surely that is how the Bible can help us with ANY disaster, dilemma , health issues AND the climate crisis - encouraging us and sustaining us by God's Holy word and the examples of Jesus, especially today on Ascension Day, to be reassured that Christ is always with us. Jesus will help us face the truth, transform our fears and be empowered to act out our faith in ways we didn't even realise we could until we turn to him in continuing love and trust.
- So I believe strongly in hope,
- Hope in the overarching, compassionate love of God through Jesus Christ, to build us up, open our eyes to our own sins of materialism and self-centredness that are creating the Climate Crisis;
- Hope that His Holy Spirit will help us stand up for vulnerable people, the vulnerable earth and all its creatures.
- Hope in Christ's spirit empowering us to help to encourage other individuals , institutions and governments throughout the world to live simpler, more compassionate , caring lives in tune with God's values, to save and protect our world with His help for future generations and be worthy disciples of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- **With God all things are possible! Alleluia!**
- Amen

