

Café-Church: Creationtide

“For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

In verse 26 of our gospel reading today, Jesus asks a question which is sharp, unsettling, and deeply relevant to us today. It asks us to consider not just what we *have*, but what we *value*; not just what we *gain*, but what we may be losing in the process. And this morning, as we gather around tables with soil and grain, wood and stone, water and weather, we’re reminded that

Creationtide is not an optional extra in the life of the Church. It is part of our calling. Part of our discipleship. Part of God’s mission.

The Anglican Communion speaks of this in its Five Marks of Mission. These helpfully all start with a T:

Tell Teach Tend Transform & the **Fifth Mark of Mission:** is TREASURE

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.” That’s not abstract. It’s not theoretical. It’s deeply practical — and deeply spiritual.

Because God’s Kingdom is not built only in our hearts. It is built in this place, in this community, on this land, with the very elements we’ve been touching on this morning. We cannot live without food. We cannot live without water. Jesus knew this. He spoke about bread and grain, about seeds and harvests, about wells and thirst. He fed the hungry. He offered living water. He taught us that God cares about our physical needs as much as our spiritual ones.

When we honour the soil that grows our food, when we protect the water that sustains life, when we support farmers, growers, and those who struggle to eat, we are participating in God’s mission. We are saying: *“Your Kingdom come — not only in heaven, but here.”*

As we have learnt this Summer, weather is something we cannot control. It blesses us with sun and rain. It threatens us with storm and drought. It shapes our crops, our seasons, our safety, our wellbeing. Jesus calmed storms not to show off power, but to show that God is present in every season, every climate, every fear. And as we are seeing the weather becoming more extreme, we are called to respond with care, wisdom, and courage — not because it is fashionable, but because it is faithful.

Creation is not separate from our spiritual lives. It is the place where God meets us. The soil teaches us about growth. The grain teaches us about nourishment. The wood teaches us about fruitfulness. The rocks teach us about strength. The water teaches us about renewal. The weather teaches us about trust.

To treasure creation is to treasure the ways God speaks. So as we touch earth and water, as we reflect on storms and seeds, we must remember that caring for creation is not a side project.

It is Kingdom work. It is mission. It is love.

And it begins here — in our homes, in our choices, in our prayers, in our community, in this place God has entrusted to us.

Call to Action:

So, what are we actually prepared to do, personally, to honour God’s creation? Not just in our good intentions, but in the choices we make when we leave this place. Because small changes only stay small until we begin to practise them.

Will we pledge to reduce the chemicals we use, commit to one vegetarian meal a week, choose local holidays instead of flying, repair

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rather than replace, begin planting trees, shift our homes towards greener energy?

These are not just lifestyle adjustments — they are acts of faith. They ask something of us, they stretch us, and they remind us that discipleship always costs. But if we want to see real change, then it begins with us: our habits, our courage, our willingness to live differently for the sake of God's world. This is where creation care becomes real — when it becomes the shape of our daily lives, offered to God with hope and trust.

May we be people who honour the earth, who protect what God has made, who share its gifts generously, and who recognise creation not as a resource to use, but as something to cherish. Because when we treasure creation, we join God in building His Kingdom — a Kingdom of justice, abundance, peace, and hope.