

HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS

Listen to his voice, harden not your hearts Ps 94

READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Ez 33; Ps 94; Rm 13; Mt 18]

*Appointed you as sentry
Warn them in my name
Listen to his voice
Harden not your hearts
Kneel before the God who made us
They tried me even though they saw my work
Love your neighbour as yourself
News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us
Go and have it out with him
Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there
The evidence of two or three witnesses.*

GREETING

Today the Readings remind us that where two or three gather, God is there guiding us. We ask forgiveness for the times we have ignored the advice of others and hardened our hearts.

recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change ... We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #218

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Truth - God is truth. That our Church recognise the witness of climate scientists and publicly oppose those who sow doubt in people's minds ... we pray
2. Reconciliation – In Jesus God gives the power to be reconciled. That as a nation of migrants, we replace fear and ridicule of migrants with outreach and listening ... we pray
3. Virtue – Like trees covering the land, God clothed the Chosen People with teachings from Moses. That our parish live out its baptismal calling and ecological vocation with integrity ... We pray
4. Debt - God favours the oppressed. That we campaign to cancel the debt of nations lured into unsustainable development that turns their people into environmental refugees ... We pray
5. Universe – God scolded Job for not seeing the Creator's handy work in the Universe. That we care for oceans and forests as habitat for God given plant and animal communities, our kin ... We pray
6. Doubt – God led his People in gradual steps. That we be open to the provisional findings of scientists and not condemn their guarded findings and doubts ... We pray

DISMISSAL

God has drawn us into diverse cycles of life as part of many communities. We go forth to find God given life in all creation, speaking of them in the words of St Francis as brother and sister.

SEASON OF CREATION

Rev Dr Norman Habel inspired an ecumenical group in Adelaide to create a Season of Creation for worship during September. The group married Scripture with scientific insights to rediscover the hidden voice of the Earth in the Bible. It softened hearts. To underpin communal liturgical prayer, the group developed a new three year cycle of Scriptural Readings. Four Sundays are theologically themed to in turn address creation, alienation, passion and new creation. A preaching commentary was written. <http://seasonofcreation.com>

The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #2

HYMNS

1. For the fruits of this creation
2. Psalm 95: If today you hear his voice
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say
4. A new commandment I give unto you
5. Amazing grace

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Learn some facts about global warming
- Learn the Young Christian Workers' method of See-Judge-Act campaigning
- Make a list of environmental websites

COVENANT

In salvation history God looks with favour on the lowly, not the hard hearted. The female side of God's activity is powerfully expressed in the Magnificat of the 'Mary Covenant' (Lk 1:46-55). Jesus taught through female images of God as he compared himself to a hen gathering her chicks (Mt 23:37-38). Paul likens setting up Church communities to giving birth (Ga.4:19). Women were prominent in God's economy of salvation. Deborah was a leader (Jdt 4:4-9) and mother to Israel singing a worship hymn (Jdt 5:7-13). Judith counselled the elders not to put God to the test (Jdt 8:11-17) and Huldah the female prophet called for repentance (2 K 22:15-20). Mary Magdalene is sent by Jesus as a messenger to the disciples (Jn 20:17) while Phoebe and other women were deaconesses among the apostles (Rm 16:1)..

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

The Dalai Lama is a leader among Tibetan Buddhists. Formed in prayer and studies as a monk, he assumed political leadership before he escaped Chinese control to go into exile. He became a wanderer for peace, embracing dialogue and preaching non-violence. A similar spirit of dialogue has helped create a Sydney based Faith and Ecology Network (FEN). The inter-faith group uses the common language of ecology. FEN promotes a change of heart in its members by helping them tease out their own tradition. Starting with scientific insights, it runs public information sessions to show ways of human living as part of the total Earth community and taking responsibility for its care. <http://www.faithecolony.net.au/>

(Mary Mother of God) grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #241

MYSTICISM

Combining the insights of ecology and scriptural scholarship helps reveal depths of spirituality in the Lord's Prayer. Vicky Balabanski writes that the Our Father is like a window into Christian living - its petitions are about bread, debt and our being put on trial. Earth is our focus if we believe all people and species need food; our overuse of Earth resources puts us into a debt which must be paid; un-serviceable loans and over-development test nature's life support systems has the Planet charge us with abuse. The mysticism of the Our Father embraces Earth. Readings from the Perspective of Earth p151, ed. N C Habel, 2000.

ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

The CSIRO has been an iconic research unit in Australia for nearly a century. The breadth of its work into atmosphere and land, rivers and oceans, and the multitude of animals and plants living there has been a 'work of love' for thousands of scientists. Not only does CSIRO science expose how nature's systems come under pressure from misguided human activities, it explores ways forward. It applies science to help grow an ecologically sustainable future for this and future generations while preserving economic and social benefits for people now. This forms a solid base for ethics and hope filled responses. www.csiro.au



LOCAL CULTURE

Land helps form people. The Murray-Darling River Basin in the interior of southeastern Australia is twice the size of France. Over millennia it has nourished Aborigines and later foreign settlers, helping mold their cultures. The Basin depends on flows from mountains in its eastern rim but its rich soils helped form four States and their towns. These river flows are now under treat from excessive use of water by industrial scale farming and mining. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray%E2%80%93Darling_basin

*It is your land of smiles: the wattle
Scatters its pollen on the doubting heart;
The flowers are wide awake; the air gives ease.*

James McAuley Terra Australis
<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/mcauley-james/terra-australis-0151014>

The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume.

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