

JOY IN GOD GIVEN PEACE

Ring out your joy to the Lord Ps 94

READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Hab 1; Ps 94; I T 1; Lk 17]

*The upright will live by faithfulness
Harden not your hearts
Ring out your joy to the Lord
The flock that is led by his hand
They tried me even though they saw my work
Fan into flame the gift God gave you
God's gift is not a spirit of timidity
Never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord
Keep as your pattern the sound teaching
The word of the Lord stands forever
Increase our faith
Servants: done no more than our duty*

GREETING

Today the Scriptures remind us to celebrate with joy that God has called us as friends and missionary disciples. Have we been ashamed to say that we are God's servants?

St Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #12

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Peace - God gives to humankind the Cosmos and all creatures on Earth as brother and sister. That our Church publicly praise the work of all who care for creation ... we pray
2. Serve – God has blessed our nation. That our leaders look beyond our borders to serve with structured relief so that all nations live in joy, harmony and at peace ... we pray
3. Singing –God gives us music in the sound of the waves and the wind in the trees. That our parish hymns remember God's works with joy filled thanksgiving ... we pray
4. Freedom – God's teachings are demanding but lead to freedom. That we open our ears to hear the cries of those oppressed by tyrannical work conditions and advocate for reform ... we pray
5. Sustainability - God takes us beyond what our minds can imagine. That we support farmers to stand up for ecological sustainability even when economically pressed by restructuring ... we pray
6. Ocean – Lord you made the ocean a source of mystery for your Chosen people. That we support the ocean scientists who open up to us its hidden beauty ... we pray

DISMISSAL

In this Eucharist we have celebrated the abiding presence of the Spirit of Jesus. We go as missionaries to help all people imagine an Earth of peace for future generations of every species.

SEASON OF CREATION

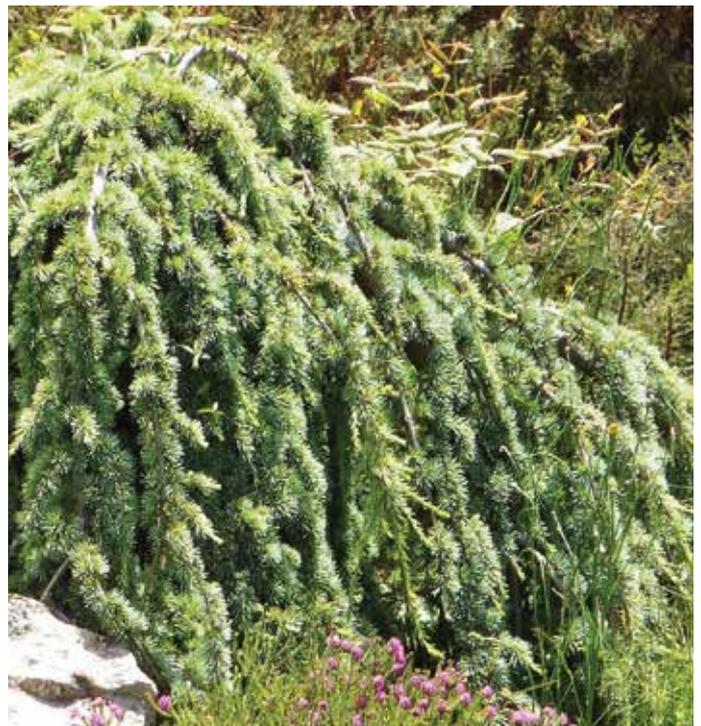
Liturgical practices rely on the symbolic value of using material things to make the spiritual world present, however, Bernard Crooke warned that over dependence on artificial intermediaries can lead to the 'The Distancing of God' (Fortress Press 1990). He wrote before the link between ecology and faith was well developed. Writers now argue that ecological awareness can help bring the divine closer. Celebrating a new liturgical creation season is a doable step towards an expanded new story. It offers a way of harmony and true peace. (Christian Faith and the Earth: Current Paths and Emerging Horizons in Ecotheology, ed. Ernst M. Conradie et al., Bloomsbury 2014).

The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #175

HYMNS

1. Sing a New Song
2. Psalm 95: If today you hear his voice
3. In faith and hope and love
4. On Eagle's
5. Though the mountains may fall



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Interview a scientist about the scientific method of inquiry
- Explore links between climate change and human history
- List links between growing peace and care for creation.

keep in mind the principle of subsidiarity, which grants freedom to develop the capabilities present at every level of society, while also demanding a greater sense of responsibility for the common good.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #196

COVENANT

Scripture witnesses to the abiding promise of God to give peace (Ps 29:11) so that a type of 'Peace Covenant' is a fruit of God's blessings. God guided the People Israel to survive as a society and live in peace through the teaching given to Moses in the Ten Commandments amplified in the Law, Pentateuch and Torah. These defined issues of moral behaviour, religious practice and governance to make the simple wise (Ps 19:17). Social harmony and individual peace was the end blessing God wanted for the People symbolised by the lion and lamb lying down together (Is 11:6-9). Peace was conferred on members of the body of Christ (Co 3:15) since peace was a fruit of the God's Spirit (Ga 5:22). Peace must be sought after (1P 3:11). Peace flows from love (Jn 14:27).

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Norman Habel came from near Hamilton, Australia. Ordained as a Lutheran minister he became a Biblical scholar and taught in the USA. Returning in 1974 to Australia he became known for his children's books called The Purple Puzzle Tree. From 1984 he was Principal of Kodaikanal School in South India. With his wife Janice Orrell they established the Grihini community health programme for oppressed Dalit women. A student of the Book of Job he published a commentary in 1985. He initiated The Earth Bible five volume series. To help promote joy in God's creation, as well as human responsibility to care for Earth, he led an ecumenical movement to include The Season of Creation as part of the liturgical year of Church communities.

MYSTICISM

The life of Saint and Pope John XXIII exemplifies a spirituality of happy service – student chaplain and diplomat, pastor and pope. He drove a movement for renewal of the Church as one who trusted completely in God. With quiet zeal he advanced global peace, ecumenism and dialogue. Symbolically he opened the windows of the Vatican to let in the Holy Spirit in by convening the Second Vatican Council. Its first document addressed the pastoral renewal of Church liturgy. A new service to the Church at this time to further liturgical renewal would be to grow a Season of Creation that better expresses creation spirituality and theology.



ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Over the centuries, French winemakers developed the concept of terroir by observing the differences in wines from different regions, vineyards, or even different sections of the same vineyard. It is a way of describing the unique aspects of a particular place that influence the wine. Burgundy wines were cultivated by well-educated monks and they accumulated wisdom from long term observation of the effect of particular parcels of land on the wine it produced. Some legends have the monks going as far as 'tasting' the soil. Planting the right vine in the right place is a story for all - how to wisely work to grow humanity as well as preserve land, a vision of harmony and peace. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terroir>

a critique of the "myths" of a modernity grounded in a utilitarian mindset (individualism, unlimited progress, competition, consumerism, the unregulated market).

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #210

LOCAL CULTURE

Joy and peace was the dream of settlers migrating to the Lucky Country. But the dream began like war for the Australian Aboriginal people decimated by imported diseases, loss of land and direct massacres. Even help was given but with a European bias. Mobs of natives were pushed to the fringes of county and towns.

*Remember
you are dust. Peace,
like the scent of rain approaching,
is the measure of our procession,
a welling from the land.*

Anne Elvey Coming into town from Holy Thursday to Ash Wednesday

<http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aid=1960#.VyVCKzB96Uk>