

Time to Turn Around

Sustainable September 2022



Week 4 - Hoping for the Good - Changing for the Good

Worship Resources for 25 September 2022

READINGS

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Luke 6: 19-31

SONG SUGGESTIONS FROM *TOGETHER IN SONG*

TIS 48 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

TIS 547 Be thou my vision

TIS 168 For the fruits of all creation

TIS 571 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go

TIS 28 God is our strength and refuge

TIS 668 Touch the earth lightly

TIS 594 Fight the good fight

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES

We gather in acknowledgement of the (name of local First Nations People), the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and to all of their ancestors who have cared for this place since creation.

All: We gather attentive to their wisdom of living in harmony with the land and waters, and in commitment to the ongoing journey of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

We are travellers with Christ on the way to a glorious future.

We look forward with hope.

We gather to encourage and support one another on the way.

May God guide us on the road ahead.

Let us worship the God of incredible possibilities.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of becoming, as hope in the status quo fail us, we turn again to you.
We turn from our fears, from our hopes, from our understandings.
And seek your presence among us.

We thank you for your promise to the humble, the sick, the incarcerated and the weary, that this world may be renewed.

We thank you that you do not offer cheap hope when we are hopeless.
You do not shy away from difficult topics or require us to “think positively” about tragic circumstances.

Thankyou that your Good News speaks to us in our pain but is not meant to speak over us in our grief.

We thank you for the ordinary beauty that persists: for the sweetness of caring relationships, for the fortitude to withstand questions unanswered, that we might be open to new possibilities.

We thank you for your presence not just now, but throughout history: inspiring the marginalised and lifting up activists in their work for your world that is to come.
Thank you that we too may be part of this work.
We thank you for showing us there is still so much work to do.

We thank you that beyond our personal and institutional histories, your message continues to inspire hope. You make us capable of seeking things we can't even describe.
And your Spirit moves us to not simply restore the world to what it was, but rather, to struggle for what it might become.

Help us to reveal our thanksgiving in action for the world you came to redeem.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

(Mark Brisbane, Social Justice Commission)

REFLECTION

(A personal reflection on sustainability from Annette Boyle, a member of the Social Justice Commission)

“A sustainable future is like peace and hope. Everyone wants it but no one really knows what it looks like” (<https://ensia.com/voices/what-does-a-sustainable-future-actually-look-like>)

We are stewards of God's creation- Earth. We must care for the earth and act in ways that will not only restore but protect the environment. It is one of the first things God asked of us in Genesis 2:15 after the creation of mankind. As 'Stewards of Creation' we must open ourselves to a sustainable life and be committed to take

action for the environment to encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future.

Individually we may feel quite powerless in influencing the world we live in but, as stewards I believe that together we can work for a sustainable future. It is imperative that climate and nature be fully protected.

Sustainability is the idea that humans must interact with the environment in a way that ensures there will be enough resources left for future generations. Therefore, sustainability is not just a bandwagon but a lifestyle that needs to be shaped, pursued and spread throughout communities. Living Sustainably is about making environmental, economic and social choices to create healthy environments that improve our quality of life.

As a steward of creation, but also as a mother, I ask you what sort of world do you want our children to live in? As it stands, our children are about to inherit a polluted planet. We are in a race against time to prevent a climate catastrophe. As a parent, what do I need to model in relation to sustainability?

Firstly, that the costs to the environment, our health and future generations has to be factored into the equation; secondly, explore how can I use my political votes wisely; and finally, vote with my dollars and support brands and companies that are creating a world that I want my children to live in. Empowering young people to be critical agents of change is important so they can channel their infinite capacities to be active participants and become effective guardians of a sustainable better world. Many young people have lost confidence in their government and understand it's time to turn around therefore have taken it upon themselves to help solve the crisis and alleviate environmental problems through green initiatives and innovation and make their way to participate in climate change rallies.

As community members and members of the Uniting Church a better future requires that we all work together to create a better world for everyone. It is up to us as citizens of the Earth to make sure that the world is habitable for many years into the future. And we can all do something about climate change.

As stewards of the Earth, we have a responsibility to care for it. In fact, our stewardship is one of the greatest offerings of worship we can give. Looking ahead, I ask that we have an honest conversation about what sustainability looks like in day to day life today and in the future. So fellow stewards, why not get started right now: What does a sustainable future look like to you? And for the future of our children, please be specific.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all that is,

You are our protector and strength in times of trouble.

Give us the courage to trust you in whatever we may face.

Show us your way of peace, and strengthen us to follow that way, with each other and with the earth.

God, you remind us that we bring nothing into this world,
and we will take nothing out.

Teach us to touch the earth lightly and with respect as pilgrims on the way.

May we use the earth's resources wisely and without greed.

***May we always be mindful of the generations and life that
will follow after us.***

Christ Jesus, you taught with many parables of justice for the poor.

Let us work for justice and dignity in the communities where we live.

Let there be justice for the myriad plants and animals of the earth we all share.

We cry out for justice in situations of conflict and war in our world.

God, you once directed the prophet Jeremiah to buy a field as an act
of faith and hope in the future.

***May we never lose hope that a good future is possible for our earth and its
peoples.***

***Show us how we can invest in life and wholeness for the future
and give us the courage to make such an investment that seeks the Kingdom
of God here on earth.***

God, if there are other situations or people we are mindful of, we bring them to you
now. *(pause for silent or spoken prayers of the people)*

We pray all of these prayers in faith, hope and love

Following in the Way of Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

(Gordon Scantlebury, Social Justice Commission)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Go now and take hold of the life that really is life.

Shun the eagerness for money

but be rich in good works.

Pursue righteousness, godliness,
faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

And may God be your refuge and fortress;

May Christ Jesus free you from all that ensnares you;

And may the Holy Spirit provide you with everything
for a good and content life.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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