**The unity of all peoples with all creation**

The psalmist declares:

*O sing to the LORD a new song:*

*Sing to the LORD, all the earth. (Ps.96)*

In this song creation is exhorted to praise its Creator – heavens rejoice and earth is

glad; the sea resounds; the fields are jubilant and the trees sing for joy.

It all began, so the story goes, in a garden. And God saw that it was good.

Though it soon went awry when we who were made in the Creator’s image chose to

spurn our opportunity to live in harmony with God and this garden, and the very

ground was cursed.

But this is a story with a happy ending. For when the Creator entered creation as a

human being, and that divine human died on a cross and rose again, life began to be

renewed. All life - not just individual life; but every aspect of human interaction is

included; and crucially, our relationship with the whole earth. This is salvation.

As the earliest church began to work this out, the Apostle Paul describes creation as

subject to futility, in bondage to decay, groaning in anticipation of salvation being

brought to fulfilment. (Romans Ch.8)

And there is much groaning - we find it easier to subdue the earth than to subdue

ourselves. Yet long before the words of the prophets Thunberg and Attenborough

reached the ears of the masses, there were those who knew in their hearts that

humanity must change. We hear the message and know how we must act: reduce

our consumption and waste; develop and use sustainable alternatives; and share.

Because we are all in this together and it is our duty to do this for all people with

whom we share this earth, and all who will come after us.

For there is no planet B.

We need to find new ways of living in harmony with all creation and make it work not

just for the privileged - those who can afford to and choose to live this way - but for

all. It is a call to decisive action. And for Christ people it is a call to prayer; that

seismic changes are brought about in this generation.

Our Creator will rejoice when all people live in harmony with all creation, for this is

true worship.

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