

Enduring Principles

#2 SACREDNESS OF CREATION

(A service of thanksgiving including the sacrament of communion, based on the five statements associated with the Enduring Principle of Sacredness of Creation.)

1. In the beginning, God created and called it good

Read the Creation Story from a Bible Storybook or selected verses from Genesis 1:1-31

Share brief comments related to “God saw everything he had made and it was **very** good.”

HYMN

CCS 132 – For the Fruit of All Creation

Opening Prayer

2. God is still creating to fulfil divine purpose

Have a table or basket containing a variety of fruits and vegetables. Invite each person to remove an item.

- Look at it - What do you notice about its shape, colour, blemishes etc.?
- Touch it - What does it feel like? Is it the same all over?
- Think about what you can't see
- What would it taste like? - Why do you know this?
- What was it like a few weeks or months ago?
- How does it compare to what the person sitting near to you chose?
- What is its purpose?
- Why did you choose it?

Comment

God's creation is wonderfully diverse.

The food items on display generally have two purposes:

to provide nourishment and
to bring pleasure.

We too are part of God's creation.

We too are diverse.

We look different.

We have different personalities.

We have different interests.

We also have been created for a purpose.

We have been created for each other:

to bring nourishment (caring, nurture) and
to bring pleasure (joy).

HYMN

CCS 135 – All Things Bright and Beautiful

3. Spirit and material, seen and unseen are related

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 26:26-29

COMMUNION DISCUSSION

In communion we use physical items to take on spiritual meaning.

- What has had to happen for us to have this bread and wine?
- What are the ingredients? How are the ingredients created?
- What are the steps from ingredients to finished product?

This is an example of God and humans working together.

Today these symbols take on special significance as they represent the body and blood of Christ. They are symbols that help us to remember Jesus, to say thank you and to commit to make him an example for our life.

HYMN

CCS 516 – Coming Together for Wine and for Bread

Invitation to Communion

Blessing and Serving of the bread and wine

4. Creation's power to create or destroy reminds us of our vulnerability in this life

DISCIPLES GENEROUS RESPONSE

We remember the vulnerable and acknowledge that many suffer through no fault of their own but because we have abused the world that we have been called to care for.

Today, we can show generosity through financial giving but we can also live generously by caring for our world and doing our bit to ease the suffering of the vulnerable.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Prayer Tree

Stand a branch in a container to represent a bare tree.

Have paper outlines of fruits available.

Invite each person to write on a fruit their prayer for the vulnerable of the world; those who are suffering because of war, famine, climate change, neglect.

Punch a hole in each paper fruit, thread through some wool or string and hang them on the tree.

Or

Have paper outlines of leaves available.

Invite each person to write on a leaf a prayer for the vulnerable of the world; those who are suffering because of war, famine, climate change, neglect.

Invite everyone to stand and hold out their leaves as if on the branch of a tree. On the count of 3 all let the leaves fall from your hands & gently drop to the floor symbolizing their release to God.

5. We join with God as stewards of care and hope for all creation

MESSAGE

Being a steward of creation involves caring for nature but also caring for people.

At the Harvest Sale the last item to sell was always the marrow. No-one wanted it because they didn't know what to do with it. So, what do you do with a marrow?

Marrows are best used in soups and stews. Although they don't have a lot of taste themselves, they are great at bringing out the flavours of the spices and other ingredients.

We are all part of God's creation. And we are all different.

Some of us will be the bright, shiny ones, that people notice (the strawberries).

But some need to be the quiet ones, the ones that often don't get noticed but who bring out the best in others (the marrows).

Maybe you can think of people who would never lead a service at church but would always be the first to offer words of thanks and encouragement to those who do...or those who are always in the kitchen making tea or washing up.

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

Today, give thanks for God's very good creation and commit to do all you can to care for it.

HYMN CCS 136 – This is God's Wondrous World

PRAYER