

Shellrock Benefice Service Sheet for Trinity 12, 30th August 2020

Collect

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings

Psalms 26, 1-6 Romans 12, 9-end; Matt 16, 21-end

A Reflection

How appropriate that this morning's collect should be reflecting on all the many wonders of creation and the reminder of our responsibility to protect and care for the environment. We are of course ever increasingly aware of this although the church has been noteworthy in drawing attention for many years to the problems of "global warming". Back in the 50s, Hugh Montefiore, the Bishop of Birmingham, was advocating more awareness of the problem. Sometimes with these large issues it seems that we can do little to arrest a process, and we are then at risk of becoming depressed by the magnitude of the issues. But we also know that when it comes to the climate crisis small things that we can change do make a difference cumulatively. The avoidance of plastics is just one and the care with which we use water another of the many things which are in our hands. I love to have a soak in a warm bath with lots of suds and yet I know that this is probably a luxury rather than an essential requirement to my well-being. We make sacrifices during Lent don't we, and yet there is room for a thoughtful use of resources throughout the year.

The passage from Romans set for the day expresses the fundamental core of discipleship, and that is love. Caring for the environment is part of that love for in that care we are looking after the needs of ALL human kind wherever they are in this wonderful world, whether near to us as neighbours or in far distanced lands. Amen

Suggestions for prayer

Thanks for all those who are working so hard to ensure the well being of this planet and who work strenuously for conservation of God's creation

For all people known to us who are ill or in any kind of trouble or hardship at this time

For our schools as they are preparing for a return for the Autumn Term

For all young people especially those preparing for a major change in their lives by leaving home.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever Amen

Blessing

The love of God enfold us, the power of Christ protect us, and the leading of the Spirit guide us. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen