

# LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Fifth Sunday after Trinity – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Read Mark 4.35-41

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

There is a lot of information in the media about climate change, pollution, and damage to plants and animals. People have not always looked after the earth and its resources as they should. What do you think are the main problems we face today?

This poem “Warned” by Sylvia Stults describes some of these problems and warns us that we should protect the earth’s resources.



Today’s Bible reading from St Mark’s gospel describes how Jesus calmed the sea in a storm. The people who saw this said “Who is this who can command the wind and the sea to obey him?”

We can’t control the wind and the sea like Jesus did. But the story of creation in the book of Genesis tells us that God created the world for us and made us stewards of the world. What does being a steward mean?

## Warned by Sylvia Stults

The sands of time have rendered fear  
Blue skies on high no longer clear  
Stars were bright whence they came  
Now dimmed, obscured, pollution's haze

Crystal clear our waters gleamed  
Fish abundant, rivers streamed  
Ocean floors sandy white  
Now littered, brown, pollution's plight

Trees towered high above  
Trunks baring professed love  
Birds chirping from sites unseen  
Gone, paper joined pollution's team

One can't blame pollution alone  
As they say, you reap what you've sown  
So let us plant a better seed  
Tear out old roots, cultivate, weed

Protect what has been given for free  
Our waters, skies, wildlife and trees  
For once they're gone, don't you say  
Consider yourself warned of that fatal day

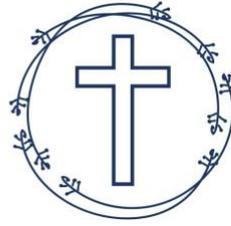


What do you think God wants us to do to look after the earth?

You may think that you can’t do much on your own to deal with these issues. You may think that we have to leave everything to politicians or world leaders. But people like Greta Thunberg have shown us that the actions of each person are important

Are there things that you can do to “renew the life of the earth”?

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## Activity

- Make a Creation Wheel to remind yourself of the story from the book of Genesis about the creation of the world (Genesis 1.1-2.3). Go outside and make the shape of a seven-spoked wheel on the floor using twigs, as big as you like. You could do this on your own or as a family. The gaps in between are each one of the seven days of creation. Search for natural objects, and fill each segment with something which represents what was created on that day.
- Think about your meals this week - try to have a meat-free day and eat only seasonal fruit and vegetables that have been grown in the UK, in order to cut down food miles.
- Find out about Greta Thunberg and what she has done to make people more aware of the issue of climate change.

## Prayer

Almighty God, thank you for the wonder of your creation.  
Help us to remember that from atoms to galaxies,  
bacteria to blue whales,  
daffodils to orang-utans and us -  
everything is the work of your hands and a sign of your glory. Amen.