

The first reading is Genesis chapter 1 verse 31:

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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The second reading is Genesis chapter 3 verse 17:

“To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’  
“Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.”

This is the word if the Lord. Thanks be to God

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So, we know from God’s word – the verses we just listened to - that God created the world.

We also know that it was VERY GOOD!

Can I get two little volunteers to come and hold these for me please (“God created the world” and “It was VERY GOOD”)

God created the world, and it was very good. So, what’s happened, what went wrong? We just need to look around us to see that something’s not right. There’s Poverty, death, injustice, there’s climate change and natural disasters, the list goes on and on.

Okay, thank you, you can sit back down 😊

Now it’s always a good thing to celebrate God’s good creation and all the great things he has given to us, especially at harvest time. But it’s also a time to think and reflect about how we don’t look after his gift of creation the way we know we should.

We see from our second reading from Genesis chapter 3 that God’s good earth was cursed because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience to God.

Now it’s easy for us to point the finger at Adam and Eve and think, well, if it wasn’t for them, then the world would still be as it was in the beginning. But that’s just not true. The Bible tells us that ALL have fallen short of God’s perfect standard and all of us are responsible for the state that the world is in right now...

So, what can we do? How can we show the world what the Kingdom of God on earth SHOULD look like? What might it look like for us to show the world that we are God’s representatives on earth building His Kingdom?

Well, we can say sorry to God for not always being the best representatives of His gospel and the Good news He has entrusted us with. I know it’s not always easy to

share what Jesus has done with our friends and family, but when we actually do and our words and actions don't line up because we are not loving each other, God or His creation in the way we know we should then it's just empty words.

But we know that when we say sorry to God, we can be confident that we can be completely forgiven if we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

When we say sorry together, as the church body, as a family, we are saying to the world that we want to help each other to do better, for God, together. So how can we encourage each other today to love others, God and His creation better?

Now the Bible doesn't actually say many specific things about how we should look after the planet, but it does tell us what we *can* do to help our words and actions line up. Jesus gave us a commandment that covers EVERYTHING we do. He said to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbour as yourself. EVERYTHING we do, should be based around these two commands.

Often loving God and our neighbour with everything we are seems like too big of a task, and by ourselves, it kind of is! But we know we can do it with God's help and in His strength not our own. It can be a pretty similar feeling when we are tasked with helping to look after the planet. We can take it step by step, trust God to help us and do it together!

So this harvest time, let's say sorry together for not looking after God's creation the way we know we should, let's always encourage each other to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and let's thank God for all of the good things he gives us through Jesus Christ as we look forward to the day when everything will be made perfect including those who...