

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 14th February – Sunday before Lent

Lent is coming!

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday and so we thought we'd try running a Lent course which can be used both by those who can go online and also by anyone who reads our weekly pew-sheet etc, sent out on Saturday evenings. Each week I'll send out an introduction with some questions and suggestions, a Bible passage and a prayer. You could use that on your own if you like, but we will also provide a Zoom meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 and Sunday afternoons at 4.30. Those of us who do meet on Zoom will of course be able to discuss together what we have read. And those of us who can't join in can either send us an email if they have something they want to share, or perhaps phone a friend and discuss the material that way. We hope that means as many people as possible will be able to join in in some way or use the material on their own.

In this time of global crisis on many fronts, USPG, (United Society Partners in the Gospel) have produced a Lent course called, "For Such A Time As This". They say, "The world is in crisis; Creation is groaning. We hear the cry of the Earth in species extinction, in systematic racial injustice, in material poverty, in conflict, in the global Covid-19 pandemic. In such a time as this, what have Christians got to offer? Our doctrine of Creation suggests that it

was never meant to be like this. Some are describing the Covid-19 pandemic as a great awakening; a moment for us to stop, reflect and change direction. We live in a broken and unequal world. We are here for such a time as this. USPG partners with churches across the world in their mission of transforming lives through education, health care and justice for all. As we will witness in this course, USPG's partner churches offer us insights, hope and encouragement in the ways that they are confronting issues of ecological justice in their own context."



It's suggested that we might like to make a weekly contribution which will then go towards the Green Schools Programme and the wider work of the Church of South India (CSI). CSI provides an education for many children and is asking them to respond to the environmental challenges all of us face. Students learn about the resources they consume; they are encouraged to use them carefully and take steps to safeguard our world. Each school aims to become more efficient with them. The process starts with an audit of the natural resources they're consuming in the school, then the children come up with ideas of

how they can make changes. For example, St Hilda's school Ooty, in the diocese of Colmbatore now harvests rainwater in big tanks and uses the water to flush their toilets, for gardening, washing and cooking using steam.

In the first week we shall look at Greta Thunberg's challenge to the United Nations, examining how we value our common home, the Earth and in what ways we value or do not value all parts of Creation, including other human beings. Then we shall visit churches round the world in the Philippines, Belize, Mozambique, South India and finally Japan to see what challenges they are facing, how they are responding, and how we might be challenged to change.

Craig Lawton would be glad to know whether you would like to join the Wednesday or the Sunday sessions so that he can set up the Zoom meetings. His email address is lawtoncraigcl@gmail.com The first session will be on Sunday 21st February at 4.30pm and it will be repeated on Wednesday 24th at 7.30pm. I'm looking forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible on Zoom to learn from and be challenged by world churches in such a time as this.

(PS It isn't necessary, but if you would like to download the course for yourself it is available free from www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime).

Eileen Wetherell