



REFLECTIONS

21-27 APRIL LIVING BY FAITH IS HARD, AND IT IS NEVER THE OBVIOUS PATH

When we hear the call to care for and live at peace with God's creation, it can feel hard to bear. So much evidence points to the fact it might be pointless, that we might have passed beyond a tipping point, and that it is simply impossible to see how the environmental problems of today can be addressed. Is it worth it? What difference can we make?

Part of the challenge that the environmental crisis presents to our faith is that it might feel extremely difficult to see (with human reason) the way out. Often, at other crisis times, it might just be a matter of remaining positive and hopeful enough in what seems a solvable situation.

But the environmental crisis can feel different. The crises of climate change and species loss start to feel like insurmountable and insoluble problems. But this is a challenge to us to live faithfully now and trust God will also act beyond our imaginings in due time.

For many of us, living more sustainably can start to feel very difficult and ultimately challenging to the way we might honestly prefer to live, and futile. What specific examples in our lives can we think of? But let's encourage each other, in our Christian communities, to walk this path of 'self-sacrifice' (however we each specifically apply it) and realise that even now, we will experience some blessings which we might never have imagined.

Extract taken from a sermon by Revd. Chris Parkman, Chaplain at St John's Menton, and volunteer for A Rocha France at Les Courmettes'. It can be found here: www.preachingforgodsworld.org

SUNDAY 21 APRIL [THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER]

Show us how to touch the earth lightly
and challenge one another boldly
to cherish the world in our care.

Let our doubt and greed
give way to faith and belief
that another world is possible,
Our Lord and our God!



PRAYERS

MONDAY 22 APRIL (INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY) Today we pray for the Earth. May we work together to protect and sustain God's creation rather than damage and destroy it.

TUESDAY 23 APRIL, ST GEORGE Let us pray for the Church of England and churches in Ethiopia and Georgia

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL (UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE) Let us pray for peace in the world. May all in positions of power actively pursue justice and peace and protect the lives of those who live in danger of war and conflict.

THURSDAY 25 APRIL, ST MARK Let us pray for all who seek to share the Gospel. May we give thanks for St Mark, for his gift of communication and his faithfulness to the life and mission of Jesus.

FRIDAY 26 APRIL Let us pray for preachers, lay and ordained. May they be attentive to the needs of the world and have the courage to be prophets of our time.

SATURDAY 27 APRIL (SOUTH AFRICA FREEDOM DAY) Let us pray for all who are oppressed. May the remembrance of South Africa's first post-apartheid elections inspire us to work for the self-determination of every nation and person.