

Sunday 7th. Feb. (2nd Sunday before Lent)

Gospel Reading John ch. 1 vv. 1 – 14

*In the beginning was the word,
And the Word was with God,
And the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
And without him not one thing came into being,
What has come into being in him was life,
And the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness did not overcome it.*

Collect (Prayer for the day) for Sunday

*Almighty God,
You have created the heavens and the earth
And made us in your own image:
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
And your likeness in all your children;
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who with you and the Holy Spirit
Reigns supreme over all things,
Now and forever.*

There is a lot of comfort in this reading from John which is set in the lectionary for this Sunday – it can bring us hope and light in the dark times that we have been going through over the past twelve months.

The phrase “In the beginning” would immediately have been recognised by Jewish people at the time because they named the books of the Bible by their opening words. So “In the beginning” would remind them of Genesis where God spoke and everything came into existence. So John is saying to those with a Jewish background that Jesus was God’s spoken word who brought everything into being.

So we are reminded of creation in Genesis particularly with the words “Through him all things were made” and these words always mean a lot to me at Spring time, and we are so lucky in our rural villages that we are surrounded by God’s wonderful creation with snowdrops, crocus, bird song and new life of lambs and calves in the fields around us.

Apparently this weekend we are invited to look at the night sky and count how many stars we can see – this is to check how light pollution is affecting our environment. We are invited to stand outside and count stars (www.cpre.org.uk) Looking at the night sky always makes me feel very humble, especially when I remember a TV programme that I saw a while ago that told me of our universe consisting of 100 million galaxies, with each one containing 100 billion stars. If we think of the words written by Graham Kendrick in one of my favourite hymns “From Heaven You Came Helpless Babe.” It was the hand of Jesus that flung every one of those stars into space.

So we need to remember that everything in the world was created by God, whether we are looking at the vastness of the universe or the minuteness and beauty of a single snowdrop. There is the beauty of God’s creation all around us and we are particularly lucky to live in a rural area where we are surrounded by it.

We just need to take time to stand still and appreciate it.

Maybe we could take a moment to think of a few small things of God's creation that we need to take time to look at and appreciate;

Three of mine at the moment are:

Snowdrops.

Frosted spiders webs on gates

Listening to bird song

Have you any others?

I would encourage you this week to take time to just stop and take a moment to meditate on the beauty of creation surrounding us.

May God bless each one of you and those whom you care for.

With love,

Barbara