

Reflection Wednesday Holy Week 2021

"Better for that man if he had never been born!". To be addressed by Jesus in this way could so easily lead to suicide. These words could be heard as a condemnation and often are. The words could also be the words of someone who loved Judas deeply and could foresee the agony Judas would go through that would lead him to utter despair and end in suicide. Something Jesus would never want. Fortunately, we have Peter to remind us that Jesus mercy and forgiveness are infinite and that nothing can come between us and the love of God in Christ Jesus. Any person thinking of suicide has been completely overcome by the circumstances they believe they face. They are utterly defeated. This is certainly what Judas faced and he could see no other way out. Think for a moment about creation. Because of our abuse and exploitation, creation is gradually moving towards a time when it will no longer be able to regenerate and will resign itself to self-destruction; certainly not willingly, quite the opposite, it will have no other choice. Knowing this we are in a position to prevent it happening. The call to repentance in this case certainly means it is imperative that we change the way we live. By our acknowledging our betrayal of the stewardship of creation, we will receive the empowering forgiveness of Jesus enabling us to live in a new way. Then, we will experience first-hand the resurrection of Creation and new life.

Let us recognise that we are sustained and nourished by God's presence and love and give thanks to God.

*As we mourn the distress and wounds of God's creation,
God weeps with us.*

*As we face rising waters, hunger and displacement,
God suffers with us.*

*As we struggle for justice,
God struggles with us.*

*As we expose and challenge climate justice
God empowers us.*

*As we strive to build greener communities,
God works with us.*

*As we offer our gifts to all,
God blesses us.*

*Let us recognise that we are sustained and nourished by God's presence and love.
and give thanks to God.*

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for your gracious providing
may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen