

Reflection Wednesday 1st Week Lent 2022

A thirty-year-old commentary, using today's readings, called us to change our ways or the world would implode, caused by our damaging use of its resources. His name was not Jonah but he bore the same message: ***Change your ways radically or you will be destroyed.*** Unlike the Ninevites, we have not listened to his message despite it being repeated time and again. Like the people facing Jesus, we ask for a sign despite the multiple signs staring us in the face. In the first pandemic lockdown we were forced not to travel or use our cars and live more simply because food was scarce. Within those few weeks, the countryside became more vibrant and flowers more colourful. The joyful song of the birds was richer and more uplifting. Just a few months later, we are back to wasting energy, throwing food away and using our cars indiscriminately.

The Ninevites believed the threat of an alien God and were saved. Are we going to ignore the threat of destruction from a God we know and love because we do not want to acknowledge the signs and radically change our ways?????

Perhaps the World Ends Here JOY HARJO

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

Here children are given instruction on what it means to be human.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We have suffered, shown remorse and given thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table while we are laughing, crying and eating our last sweet bite.

Pope Francis: *"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."*