

Minster Virtual Junior Church, Climate Sunday, September 13th 2020

Welcome!

- Hello everyone, and welcome again to our online Junior Church.... (Vincent speaking)
- Let's start by thinking about each other, as if we were going round the circle hearing how each of us is. Also, think about some of the Minster people who are going to a service there today at 10.00am. About sixty people are going each week, in groups of chairs which are all two metres apart. It all feels a bit odd, but it's good to be in the Minster again after 15 weeks with no services!
- Your family could light a candle.



Today's theme is God's wonderful world

Today Christian people in nearly every country in the world are celebrating God's creation. From September 1st till October 4th, it is called the Creation Season, and in the Minster there is a special service at 10.00 today for Climate Sunday.



In school, the natural world is called the environment. At church we call it 'Creation. Why is that? Which of these is the best answer? Tick the box.

Christians call the natural world Creation because...



God created the world 6000 years ago



God has been creating the world for millions of years and is still creating new things



At the very beginning of the Bible, in first chapter of the Book of Genesis, we find the story of Creation. It starts like this: *In the beginning, God created the universe,*



God's people wrote this story over 2500 years ago when they didn't know much science!

They believed the earth was flat, and thought the sky was blue because there was another sea up there. They had no idea **how** the universe came to exist, but they did know **why** it existed: it was God's world, God's universe.

They knew it was a wonderful world, with beautiful birds and tall trees and food they could eat and the sun that comes up every morning to give light, and so on. They knew that God was behind

it all, and they wrote a sort of poem. In this poem, they divide the universe into six sections, which they call days, and at the end of each day we can read, '*And God saw that it was good*'.

Read these verses from the end of chapter 1 of the book of Genesis:



Reader 1 *Then God said,*

Reader 2 *And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.*

Reader 1 *So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said,*

Reader 2 *Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food.*

Reader 1 *And it was done. God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came - that was the sixth day.*

How many days in the week are there? _____
 In the poem about Creation in Genesis, which day did God create human beings? _____
 God rested on the seventh day. Which is our 'day of rest' now, when people can go to church? _____



Everything in Creation is **useful**, even bugs and wasps.

Trees give shade and provide wood for making furniture

Bees and wasps help flowers and plants to pollinate.

Creepy bugs provide food for birds and hedgehogs.

Many kinds of fish can be eaten by people and by sea-gulls

Thinking Box (Maybe talk about this)

Can you think of other uses for trees?

How else do bees help?

How do you think ants are useful in the forest?

Think of all the ways the sea helps us.



Other parts of God's world are just **beautiful**. Look at this fish! And think of the wonderful songs of birds in the spring. Grown-ups and children love looking at mountains and sea because they are so lovely.

Thinking box

What is the most beautiful place in nature you have ever visited?

What is the most beautiful sound you have ever heard?

What is your favourite smell?

The most important thing for us to do is to **look after** the planet. God has made human beings very intelligent, but we can also be very thoughtless and damage this wonderful world. So we have to use the natural world carefully, so that people and animals and birds can still live here happy for thousands of years. We have to stop the world being damaged by storms and droughts.

For older children

What is global warming?

What happens if the ice caps melt?

Why is it important?



★ Children round the world
★ are trying to make God's
★ world a better place. Here
★ is a picture of children in
★ South America holding
★ banners about caring for
★ God's creation.



★ In Southwell, children from local schools formed a human chain round the Minster in 2017 to show
★ they love the world and everyone in it.



★ Here are some jobs you can do in the two boxes below!

- ★ ✚ Design the most beautiful fish you can image
- ★ ✚ Draw your favourite tree
- ★ ✚ Write a very short poem about something beautiful you have seen
- ★ ✚ What some ideas about keeping the planet safe for the future
- ★ ✚ Write a short prayer for help to save the created world





★ End with this verse from the Bible, and then the prayer

★ O LORD, how many are your works!

★ In wisdom you have made them all;

★ the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104, verse 24

★ Dear God:

★ We love this wonderful earth which you have created,

★ but we are worried about many things, which can cause it harm.

★ We understand that there are many problems with our environment.

★ We ask you, God, to help us find ways to take better care of the earth.

★ We know that there are many people working to help the earth

★ and we would like to find our own way to look after the creation.

★ Amen.

