

Reading and prayer 1st November 2021

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 96:11-13

Heavenly Father, source of life, we give thanks for your bountiful planet. Great plains, verdant forests, deserts of rock, sand and ice, mountain ranges, rivers and oceans: ecosystems to meet the needs of all your creatures. Forgive us for forsaking your calling to be custodians:

When we drill for oil, gas and minerals, despoiling the earth, poisoning the waters and fouling the air with climate changing gases;

When we fell ancient trees, over-exploit the oceans and techno-farm food, destroying soils, traditional food systems and indigenous communities;

When we desecrate your world with trash where nothing in nature is intended to go to waste;

When we live lavish lifestyles and turn our other cheek to poverty, injustice, war, famine and unbearable human suffering.

When world leaders and multi-national corporations put profit before the wellbeing of people, communities and a flourishing planet.

We pray for our leaders who gather together at COP26. Bless them with compassion, wisdom, and hope, that they may work together to take action against the climate crisis. Amen.

With thanks to Bishop Geoff Davies of South Africa for the prayer