



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Creation is Groaning

This is the fourth week of the Season of Creation. While the Season of Creation is primarily a month of celebration of all that is good in our world, we can't ignore the fact that there are threats to the environment that need to be addressed.

In his song, "the Canticle of the Creatures", St Francis of Assisi referred to the Earth as our sister and mother.

In Romans 8:22 there is a biblical image that pictures the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth. We need to listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor. These cries bemoan the destructive actions causing the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity and human suffering as well.

And it is no wonder that the Earth and the Poor are crying when you consider the most recent report of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) – State of the Global Climate 2024. This report notes that:

- Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide are at the highest point in the last 800,000 years;
- Globally each of the past 10 years were individually the 10 warmest years on record;
- Each of the last 8 years has set a new record for ocean heat content, which impacts badly on sea life and results in extreme weather conditions like cyclones and hurricanes;
- The 18 lowest Arctic sea-ice extents on record were all in the last 18 years;
- The largest 3 year loss of glacier mass on record occurred in the last 3 years;
- The rate of sea level rise has doubled since satellite measurements began;
- Extreme weather, by way of heatwaves, cyclones, wildfires and flooding led to loss of life, the destruction of homes and large-scale air pollution across the world;

- Food security, population displacement and impacts on vulnerable populations were of mounting concern, with weather and climate hazards exacerbating the situation in many parts of the world.

You may have heard on the news that in our own part of the world the South Australian algal bloom is threatening marine life. It is related to increases in water temperatures.



The WMO report is a pretty depressing report in many ways, but the report also notes that, despite the many distress signals our Planet is issuing, it is still possible to limit global temperature rises if countries are willing to take appropriate action by slashing greenhouse gas emissions. But that will require change and decisive actions from governments around the world.

As we celebrate the Season of Creation we must have hope for change to occur. There is a phrase commonly attributed to St Augustine that says "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not stay as they are."

Maybe we can have a righteous anger that gives us the courage to be hopeful and active for justice and peace.