

## Letter from the Revd Canon Dr Claire Nye Hunter, 1 September 2019

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

During the first four weeks in September, we shall be joining the rest of the ACSA in celebrating “The Season of Creation”. At the beginning of spring, we celebrate new life all around us. We marvel at the beauty of the earth and give thanks to God for all his goodness shown to us in the wonders of his creation.

This season also gives us time to reflect on our calling to be stewards of God’s creation. The earth does not belong to us – it belongs to God! It is a gift from God; a home in which we live and find food, and one which we share with the rest of creation. With this gift, comes the responsibility to act as stewards of his creation – to care for, manage, oversee and protect all God owns (which includes animals, water, land, minerals, plant life, indeed the entire environment). We must ensure that we preserve, sustain, nurture, and use the resources of the earth wisely. One day we will have to give account to God for how we have treated His earth.

The following is adapted from the ACSA resource booklet “Season of Creation Year C”:

In 1989 The Orthodox Church declared 1 September as a Day of Prayer for Creation. Soon afterwards, Pope Francis announced that the Roman Catholic Church would do the same. Now international heads of various denominations have added their support and committed themselves to joining this call for prayer....

“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature...on Earth” (Genesis 9:9-10)

We are part of a single, wondrously complex web of life that is woven by God. During September the Christian family throughout the world celebrates the good gift of creation.

We unite as one family in Christ, celebrating the bonds we share with each other and with “every living creature on earth” (Gen 9:10). During this season we are invited to spend time in prayer, consider ways to inhabit our common home more sustainably, and lift our voices in the public sphere.

The devastation of the web of life is, in itself, a tragic loss. We contemplate this loss and pray that it ends. We also pray for justice, as the most vulnerable among us suffer most deeply as the web of life begins to unravel. Our faith calls us to respond to this crisis with the urgency born of moral clarity. We were called to be stewards of creation, and we have failed. The younger generation are rising up now and calling for the Earth to be healed. Let us join them and work together to protect the web of life which sustains us all.

Every blessing

Claire

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