

2009 Environmental Lenten Worship Resource

Option for Maundy Thursday

There are a number of themes inherent in the traditional observances of this day, which provide opportunities to draw some connection with creation or our care of it. It need not be a major focus, but even a sentence or two, within a sermon or a short reflection paragraph in your bulletin, can lift up earthkeeping awareness:

Gratitude to God for all the wonders and life-sustaining blessings of creation.

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? (Psalm 116:12)

We are called to be servants of Christ and humble servants, at that, caring for one another. In caring for creation, we also care for one another.

O LORD, I am your servant. (Psalm 116:16a)

“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you.”

(John 13:14-15)

The institution of Holy Communion and God’s grace coming to us through common earthly elements (I Cor 11:23-26).

A new commandment – that we should love one another, just as Christ has loved us. Again, promoting eco-justice and the care of the Earth is deeply inter-connected with the care of human communities, especially the poor and the very young or very old.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Our witness is in our actions of loving others and in earthkeeping.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(John 13:35)