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## CREATION SPIRITUALITY

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Seasons of Creation – 5

October 04, 2020

Anglican Parish of Raymond Terrace  
[www.stjohnsraymondterrace.org](http://www.stjohnsraymondterrace.org)

## SEASONS OF CREATION 5

Pray:

May I speak to you in the name of GOD – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen



All creation is like a majestic symphony or a great choir composed of many harmonious parts that together offer up songs of praise. Each part – independent, yet part of a whole – is caught up and carried along in the swelling tides of praise. This is a picture of how we as believers should praise GOD – individually, yet as part of the great choir of believers world-wide.

Psalms 121 is part of that group of psalms called the Songs of Ascent. It expresses assurance and hope in God's protection day and night. He not only made the hills, but heaven and earth as well. We should never trust a lesser power than GOD Himself. Not only is He all-powerful, He also watches over us. Nothing diverts or deters Him. We are safe. We never outgrow our need for GOD's untiring watch over our lives.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul reminds us that the world is full of enticements. Daily we are confronted with subtle cultural pressures and overt propaganda. The only way to escape these destructive influences is to ask GOD to help crucify our interest in them, just as Paul did. It is easy to get caught up in the externals. We need to beware of those who emphasise actions that we should or shouldn't do, with no concern for the inward condition of the heart. Living a good life without an inward change leads to a shallow or empty spiritual walk. What matters to GOD is that we be completely changed from the inside out.

Paul's letter to the Galatians boldly declares the freedom of the Christian. Doubtless these early Christians in Galatia wanted to grow in the Christian life – but they were being misled by those who said this could be done only by keeping certain Jewish laws.

How strange it would be for a prisoner who had been set free to walk back into his or her cell and refuse to leave! How strange for an animal, released from a trap, to go

back inside it! How sad for a believer to be freed from the bondage of sin, only to return to rigid conformity to a set of rules and regulations!

If we believe in JESUS CHRIST, we have been set free. Instead of going back into some form of slavery – whether to legalism or to sin, we should use our freedom to live for CHRIST and serve Him as He desires.

Our Gospel today is a prayer. JESUS mentioned 2 kinds of people in this prayer:

- The WISE – arrogant in their knowledge
- The LITTLE CHILDREN – humbly open to receive the truth of GOD's Word.

We should ask ourselves “Am I wise in my own eyes – OR – do I seek the truth in childlike faith, realising that holds all the answers?”

▲ In the Old Testament, the word “KNOW” means more than knowledge. It implies an intimate relationship. The communion between GOD the Father and GOD the Son is the core of their relationship. For anyone else to know GOD, GOD must reveal Himself to that person, by the

Son's choice. How fortunate we are that JESUS has clearly revealed to us GOD – His truth – and how we can know Him.

As we all know a yoke is a heavy wooden harness that fits over the shoulders of an ox or oxen that attaches to a piece of equipment the oxen are to pull. A person may be carrying heavy burdens of:

1. Sin
2. The Law
3. Oppression and Persecution OR
4. Weariness in the search for GOD.

JESUS frees people from all these burdens. The rest that JESUS promises is love, healing and peace with GOD – not the end of all labour. A relationship with GOD changes wearisome toil into spiritual productivity and purpose.

How can the yoke of JESUS be easy? The yoke emphasises the challenges, work, and difficulties of partnering with CHRIST in life. Responsibilities can weigh us down – even the effort of staying true to GOD.

But JESUS' yoke remains easy compared to the crushing alternative.

JESUS doesn't offer a life of luxurious ease – the yoke is still a tool that allows the oxen to work. But it is a shared yoke – with weight falling on bigger shoulders than ours – someone with more pulling power is up front helping – to turn our frowns into a smile and our complaints into a song.



Our first reading describes all of creation as being like a majestic symphony or a great choir composed of many harmonious parts that together offer up songs of praise. Our Psalm expresses assurance and hope in God's protection day and night.

In the passage from Galatians, Paul boldly declares the freedom of the Christian. How sad for a believer to be freed from the bondage of sin, only to return to rigid conformity to a set of rules and regulations!

And our Gospel passage for today tells us that whilst we will still carry our burdens and responsibilities, we can rest in JESUS and share them with Him.



May we pray:

Thank you, LORD GOD for all you give us in Creation. May we, with humble hearts, open our lives to receive the truth of your most holy Word. Thank you also that we can share our burdens and responsibilities with you. This we pray in the name of JESUS. Amen



## **Blessing of the Animals**

1. Abby Handley
2. AJ and Lenny Mulley
3. Ele and Izzy Brown from Maitland
4. Eddie Goldthorpe
5. Griffin Louis
6. Kitty Farley – 19 years old from Melbourne
7. Missy and Atom Russo
8. Millie Hendriks
9. Missy Hendriks
10. Ruby Lawlor
11. Scobie Chate
12. Sophie Roth from Medowie
13. Teddy Farley
14. Toots Mulley



## **A Blessing for a Beloved Animal**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
who made every living thing with which the water  
teems,  
and every winged bird,  
the livestock,  
the creatures that move along the ground,  
and the wild animals,  
and called it all “good.”

Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_,  
for its life that comes from you,  
and for the love and joy it brings.

Please bless this creature  
and let our loving care for him/her be a reflection of  
your loving nature.

We praise you for all your beauty in creation, and  
especially for this expression of your love.  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your  
creatures! Amen.