

## **Christian Aid Sunday- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Theme : Together we STOP this climate crisis

This year Christian Aid celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We congratulate and celebrate with them for doing a lot of charitable work around the world in support of those in need.

The theme for today challenges us to think serious and act responsibly in terms of how we should co-exist with God's creation.

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;  
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

<sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,

The picture from this Psalm reflects an element of creation which is in jubilation : the mountains, the rivers, and all nature singing and echoing to the goodness of the Lord- in song praising the Lord "What a beautiful scenario...".

**God's creation is in crisis** But what we see in our world today is different. We see creation that is hurting, after destruction from human unkind activities- Nature has been decapitated. Many people deny Climate Change altogether; and deny it is man-made. Some even oppose Climate Action.

Yet, climate chaos is already upon us, not as punishment from heaven but as a direct result of our behaviour. We will not point our fingers to God, but we are responsible for the cruel treatment we have exerted on the planet earth. We have harmed God's creation- by our selfish actions- bush fires, cutting down of trees, carbon emissions, of late we have seen massive deposits of plastic in the oceans... As ever, those harmful actions originate predominantly in the global North, and yet dangerously impact the poorest people on the planet. There is overwhelming evidence of the impact of climate crisis across the globe including Kenya which is our case study for Christian Aid this year. And what are we going to do about it?

**Our response-** shall we sit and not do anything?

Let us take heed of the voice of the prophets calling us to take some action.

Micah begins his prophecy with a message that is intended to go global: 'Hear, you peoples, all of you; listen, O earth, and all that is in it.' (Micah 1:2). Micah is calling on political leaders to shun the evil ways of corruption. He denounces

their exploitation and oppression of people and land; he sees these social injustices as integral to the idolatry of the people of Israel.

Action : Let us rise up and join with others in the campaign against companies or practices that engage in destructive activities on our mother earth and against creation. This is our vocation. God requires us to do justice with those who are the worst affected yet least responsible for the climate crisis. To do justice also requires justice for the Earth, to acknowledge that the raging fires, flooding rivers, devastating typhoons and species extinction are a result of the grave injustice of exploitation and neglect of nature. This demands that we act with compassion for **the wounded creation and for its hurting people**- today we are thinking of Kenya.

**One of the values of God's kingdom is love.** Let us show our love and support for the people of Kenya and all the parts of the world that have been impacted by climate change.

And Jesus says, "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15: 14,15). Our relationships with people – especially the world's poor - and with the non-human creation cannot be separated from our own welfare and happiness – or from our relationship with God.

Let us always remember to be good stewards of God's creation. **Amen.**