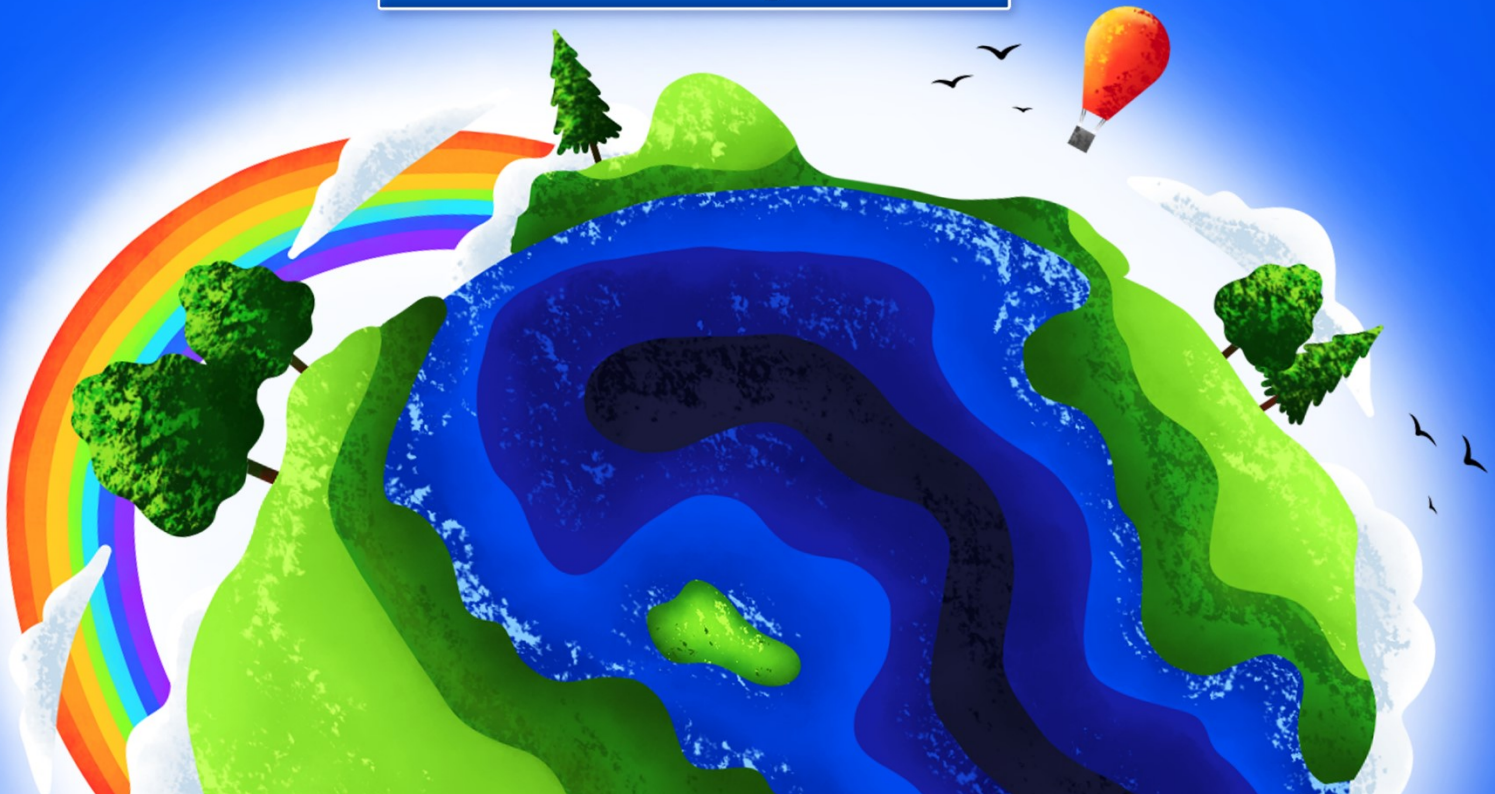


CREATION & THE CREATOR

SanctuaryFirst



Green Christian Network - Group One

What hope is there for the world today?

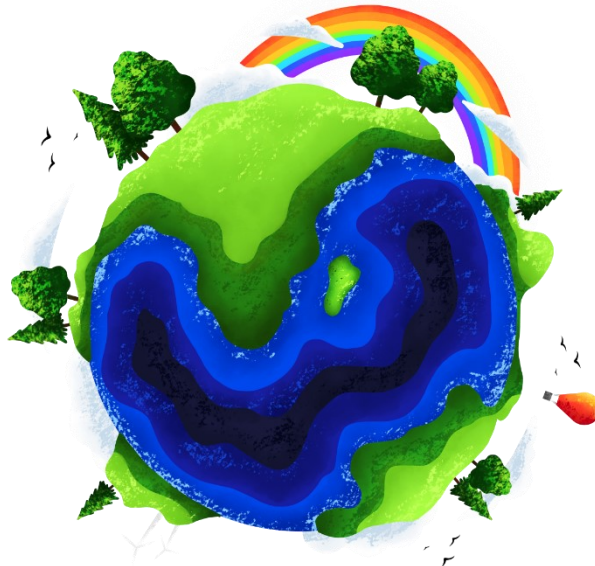
Just as the world tried to take a breath, after the pandemic began to ease, the news refilled with further sorrows.

Caring for the climate has become part of our daily discussions. There has been much damage done to the planet we inhabit. Our screens are filled with the horrors of future famines and severe weather warnings... so much has been destroyed.

So what hope is there for the future?

How can we begin to repair and rebuild whilst our hearts are filled with fear?

Let us read from Genesis, and remind ourselves of our role in creation.



Genesis 1: 26-31 (NIV)

26

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

29

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

31

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.



Reflection:

In the beginning we are told that there was a perfect Earth being formed. After each stage of God's design being completed, we read that:

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Our Creator's response to every detail he made was that it was very good.

Everything on earth was very good.

Not only did God make a planet that pleased him deeply, he set mankind on it with a clear purpose. All of the resources were assigned to humans to maintain and care for it.

There is a sense of pride and fulfilment as we read of God's own approval of his handiwork.

Our Creator designed a world that began beautifully. Everything had a purpose and an order.

Before we begin looking at the questions for reflection below, let us pause to pray.

Prayer:

Dear Father,
You made a wonderful planet for us. You declare there is goodness in your creation. Help us as we remind ourselves of the good there is around us.
Amen.



Part 1:

My favourite place in nature is to watch the waves of sea coming in or out at the shoreline. Everything about the sea touches my eyes and ears and nose with satisfaction. I love the beach most of all.

What is your favourite place in the world that you enjoy visiting? Is it a place you find relaxing and enjoyable? What memories can you recall that make you smile?

Part 2:

Not all of us would describe ourselves as creators, but many love to write or paint or bake or sew.

Can you remember the pride of producing a piece of art at school and showing it off to an adult? If the answer is yes, then you will recall that deep sense of pride in your handiwork.

Or the opposite may have happened, and your efforts were given no praise at all. It hurts to not have our creations received with praise.

Is there a talent you would like to tell the group about that you enjoy being creative with?

What is your response to reading that God was pleased with his own design for the Earth?

Is there anything you would love to make in the future with your creative gifts?



Part 3:

There is something so grounding and enjoyable when we open our senses to nature.

Before we explore ways to help heal our environment around us, let us use this month to focus on the goodness we have available.

Here are some suggested exercises for this month. Can you think of any others you could use that fit into your daily life?

To do:

I love a good strong cup of tea. From the moment I hear the kettle boiling I am smiling. What is your favourite cuppa? Or is a cold drink better to quench your thirst?

Take time this month to enjoy the smell, the taste and the comfort in that hot or cold drink. What do you enjoy the most about it?

This month ask your Creator to help you notice the moments that make you smile. Take time to tell him 'thankyou' for the world he created.

If the response you have just now is only the sorrow you see in the world, then take time to hold up that sorrow in prayer.

Just as we rejoice in the good, there is no need to force our feelings to where they cannot go.

May God grant you times of satisfaction in the world you live in. I hope there is something that makes you smile and say; 'this is very good'.



