

Week 1.

- What do you most enjoy about Harvest Festival?
- Read Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- What is the first thing the people are asked to do when they have settled and farmed the land?
- How do you view stewardship of the land?

If everything & everyone bears the imprint of God 'there can never be a demarcation line between humankind & nature.'

[John Chryssavgis]

- Do you agree with the statement above?
- How are our lives bound to the life of the land? What do we have in common with every living creature?
- How might our understanding of stewardship effect the way in which we use land resources?

'If the earth is our very flesh, then it is inseparable from our story, our destiny, and our God.'

[John Chryssavgis]

- In Job 38 & Psalm 104 we see further evidence of God's provision rather than our entitlement.
- How might these passages help us develop a more positive attitude towards the land?
- How are we to respond to the earth's harvest?
- Close in prayer, rejoicing in the many good things that God has provided for us, and praying for constructive ways in which we can care for our environment.



The Land

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) wrote :

'Human Beings cannot live without the rest of nature, they must care for all natural things'

[Edmund Barrow]

'For out of it [the ground] you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

[Genesis 3:19]

Recommended Reading for the Series :

Bible and Ecology : Richard Bauckham : DLT : 2010

Creation As Sacrament; Reflections on Ecology & Spirituality : Revd Dr. John Chryssavgis : T&T Clark : 2019

Our Future In Nature: Trees, Spirituality & Ecology: Edmund Barrow : Balboa Press : 2019

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