



Wednesday 1st April 2020 – God’s promises

Video can be accessed here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcr1S3HyWd-t3kHIPAqkDjg?view_as=subscriber “Wild Church: Gods Promises”

Today’s Wild Worship will be focussed on Gods promises and unfailing love for all people. We will be looking at the colour of creation and using the rainbow to focus our activities and prayers. During these challenging times perhaps you see no colour or hope. Perhaps you question Gods promises. Let this be an encouragement to you to seek beauty when it’s bleak and to find hope when it feels hopeless.

Please join in with me the parts in **Bold**.

The Welcome

The world around us is full of beauty

We praise your name O God.

For the gift of life on earth

We praise your name O God.

Open our eyes to see your artistry

Your image in all that you have made.

Where our praise is short or silent

creation sings out with joy.

Here we join creation’s song

We praise your name O God

Opening prayer

All things bright and beautiful,

All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful,

The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,

And lips that we might tell,

How great is God Almighty,

Who has made all things well.

Amen.

Walk – Rainbow Hunt

We will now go on a Rainbow Hunt. You can do this inside your home, by looking outside your window or going out into your garden. I wonder if you can find something using every colour of the rainbow. If you want an extra challenge why not look for different shades. If possible why not collect your colours and

make a nature bracelet or collage?

Reading

Genesis Chapter 9 v 16 (NRSV) 'When the Bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'

Reflection

God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never again send a flood like the one that Noah had survived in the Ark. Today the rainbow is a symbol of hope for us. A reminder to us that God keeps his promises.

In October last year I went on a five day individually guided retreat. Did I mention that it was a silent retreat? If you've never been on one I would encourage it. Anyway the reason I mention this is at the end of the week I gathered together with the other retreatants and we were encouraged to share a reflection from our week:

My reflection: "I've never known a valley with so many rainbows!"

Those that know me appreciate that I love being outdoors so naturally I spent a large proportion of my time exploring the beautiful Yorkshire countryside. Where I was staying overlooked a valley and with it being Yorkshire there was plenty of rain but so too Rainbows. On arriving at the retreat house I was getting over an illness and feeling pretty grotty. One could say I felt a bit in a valley. My life felt a bit monochrome. More bleak than beauty. However throughout the week on my walks or whilst gazing out the window I was always confronted by big and bright rainbows!

Here is a quick science lesson for those being home schooled at the moment. Rainbows are formed when sunlight is scattered from raindrops into the eyes of an observer. Most raindrops are spherical rather than the often depicted 'teardrop' shape and it is this spherical shape that provides the conditions for a rainbow to be seen. Perhaps you could make it a project to find out more about rainbows this week! Also look up 'Brocken bow or Spectre.' I was lucky enough to observe this when I live in Wales and was adventuring in the mountains!

Anyway there are two reasons why I have focussed our attention on the rainbow today:

1. To remind ourselves of Gods promises to us.

As God put the rainbow in the sky as a covenant or agreement with Noah never to flood the Earth in that way again so too does that promise extend to us. What other promises does God give us? Perhaps spend a couple of minutes saying out loud or in your heart what these could be.

Here are some of Gods promises from the bible:

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and Brave. Don't be afraid because the LORD your God will be with you everywhere you go.

Jeremiah 29:11 "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

Romans 8:28 "We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him."

Ask God who needs encouraging today and then send them a promise verse!

The second reason for the focus on the rainbow is to help us appreciate the colour in our lives. We can look at our lives and our world and naturally see the pain and the struggles and the difficulties or we can look at our lives and the world and try and find the beauty when it's bleak. We will soon be out of Lent and into

Holy week as we journey with Jesus to the cross. It may look bleak but we have resurrection hope.

The Church of England have an excellent resource called #LiveLent. You can sign up to their daily emails. This weeks reflection looks at the fifth day of the Genesis 1 account – the creation of the birds of the air and creatures of the sea. If you look about you or when watching a nature documentary appreciate the ‘extravagant diversity: over 10,000 species of birds and over 30,000 species of fish have been so far identified.’ And what a rainbow of colour they are!

Keep Gods promises close and I invite you to notice the colours in the world and give thanks for the beauty to be found even in the bleakest of rain showers. Amen.

Song

God of Your promise
You don't speak in vain
No syllable empty or void.

So Will I (100 Billion X) - Hillsong Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2U7ffUM5Ec>

RED

Thank you, God, that you love us and that you are always with us.

ORANGE

Dear God, please help us to be patient, to wait and listen to you and to be obedient while we wait for this crisis to end.

YELLOW

Dear God, please help all those who are scared. May they know your perfect peace that takes away all fear.

GREEN

Dear God, please look after all those who are sick, give them the treatment and help they need to recover, send your healing power into all the world.

BLUE

Dear God, please protect all those who are working for the NHS, thank you for all they are doing to protect us.

PURPLE

Thank you, God, that we are children of the King of Kings. Thank you that even though we are in difficult times we can trust in you and pray your Kingdom come.

PINK

Thank you, God, that we know you will bring us through this crisis to safety on the other side just as you protected Noah and brought him and his family through the flood.

Rainbow Prayers

Sitting with the colours you have found on your rainbow hunt use these prompts to pray. Thank God, ask for help for yourself and for others. Pray for the sick. Pray for protection for those on the frontline. Thanks God for his promises and never ending love.

Closing Prayer

Eternal God,
Born into one place and time
For the sake of every place and time,
Wherever we live and work you are already there
Waiting to be discovered in the adventure of reality,
Give us discernment to follow your tracks
Through the cutting edge of culture and voices of our times.
Make us bold to step outside our old religious comforts,
To live and build your kingdom with the stuff that's all around us. **Amen.**

Family challenge



Taken from #LiveLent resource - Explore the wonders of the deep!

Allow yourself to wonder at the abundant, varied and often beautiful creatures who share our world. Discover more about birds or sea creatures by watching a documentary or researching online. I wonder how many colours you can spot in the nature documentary.

I have really enjoyed this series 😊 <https://www.channel5.com/show/wild-britain/>

Resources

The Welcome & Closing prayer : Creation Care Prayers Diocese of Leeds

Opening prayer: All things bright and beautiful Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)

Family Challenge: Live Lent Church of England Resource <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>

Rainbow prayer resource: Facebook group 'Together at home' by Jessica- Ann Jenner

Song: So Will I (100 Billion X) Hillsong Worship

Wild Britain nature documentary <https://www.channel5.com/show/wild-britain/>