



Green Anglicans

Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network

5 JUN

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Sunday Liturgy
& Sermon Notes
for 7 June

A GLOBAL CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION

#NowForClimate



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

UN 
environment
programme

ANGLICAN
COMMUNION
ENVIRONMENTAL
NETWORK





THE PLANET IS SPEAKING

Liturgy for

World Environment Sunday

Theme: Climate Action

Gospel Reading: Gospel of Matthew 9:18–26

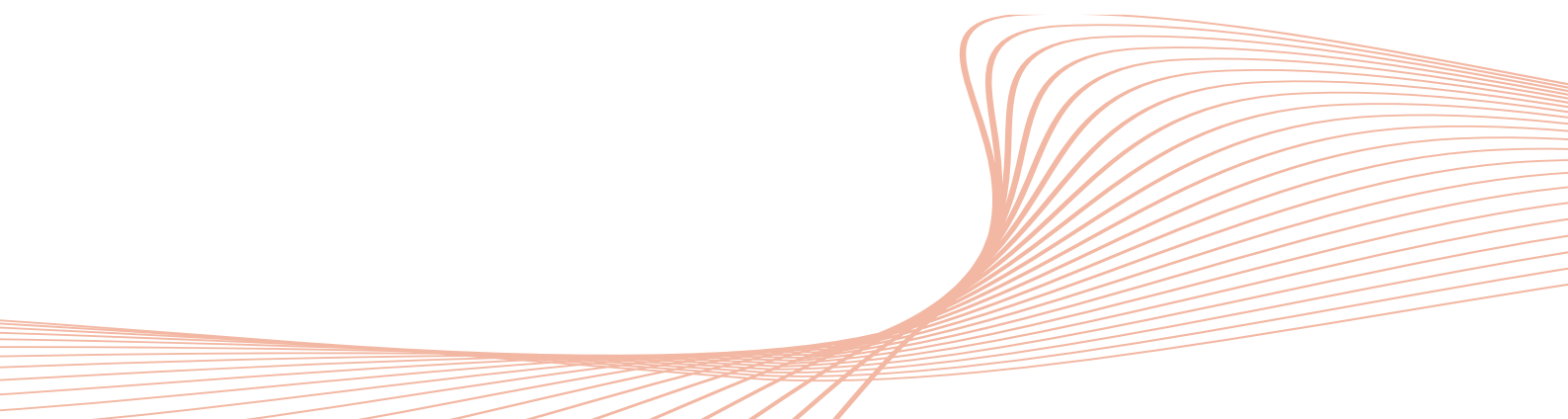
INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Southern Africa has faced devastating climate-related disasters. Last month devastating floods hit the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State and Mpumalanga as well as Lesotho, destroying homes, farms and businesses. Ten people lost their lives and over 150,000 were affected. Last year in June over one hundred people lost their lives in the Mthatha floods, 58 schools and 28 health care facilities were damaged. The Easter floods of 2022 in Durban led to the loss of over 400 people, many have never been able to find the bodies of their loved ones to this day. Rising heat and drought in other parts of the country leads to heatstroke and harvest shortages.

Homes, schools and livelihoods are lost. Food prices rise - this is the reality of Climate Change. We are not all impacted

equally - those living in areas with poor infrastructure suffer the most - as it is said "We are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat".

These disasters remind us that climate change is not a distant threat but a present reality affecting the poor, the elderly, and future generations most deeply. As followers of Christ, we are called not only to pray, but also to act faithfully as caretakers of God's creation, bringing healing, justice, and hope to the earth and all who dwell in it.



Sermon Notes

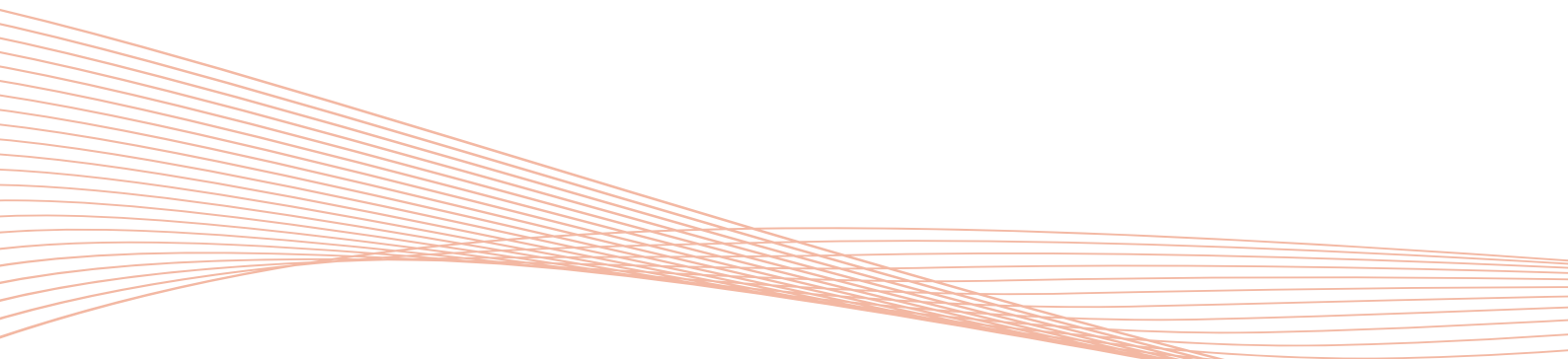
Matthew 9:18-26 presents a powerful ecological message of life, restoration, and God's authority over death and brokenness. This passage contains two connected stories: the first is that of an old woman, an outcast of society who has been bleeding for 12 years. The second is the complete opposite a young girl from a rich and powerful family - Jairus was a figure of respect and authority - and the girl was 12 years old - for all of her life the woman had been suffering. Both of these people, so different yet they suffer from their health.

In Jesus' time, the bleeding woman would have been considered ritually unclean and socially excluded. She suffered physically, emotionally, spiritually, and economically. Yet she courageously reached out her hand, breaking taboos and never lost her faith. Creation too is 'bleeding' the forests becoming deforested, entire species being lost, stocks of fish are being wiped out. This reminds us of the power of small acts of faith. Sometimes we feel that we can have no impact on businesses or politicians and yet change does take place when we do small acts of faith and hope. This story

also reminds us that Jesus sees those who are forgotten, those whom society considers outcast

In the second story we see that the little girl has already died. The situation seems hopeless. And yet Jairus has not lost hope, he believes in the power of God. Jesus says 'she is not dead but sleeping'. Nature has an incredible ability to restore itself once it is protected. The role of faith communities is really important - campaigns such as tree growing campaigns reduce the temperature, take in pollution and reduce carbon emissions. Climate smart agricultural practices enable people to grow food even in harsh situations. Disaster preparedness can save many lives. Hope with action is a powerful force

The healing of the bleeding woman and the raising of the ruler's daughter reveal a God who restores what is considered "beyond repair." Jesus responds with compassion and transformative power, showing us the way, if we will go forward with our small faithful actions to heal the earth- God can transform the current situation



Call to Worship

Leader: You formed the heavens and the earth, filled the seas with life, and breathed your Spirit into creation.

All: We come to worship our Creator God.

Leader: The earth cries out from floods and droughts, from polluted rivers and burning forests.

All: Yet we believe God has not abandoned creation.

Leader: Come, people of God, come with your fears for the earth, your grief for what has been lost, and your hope for what can still be restored.

All: Let us worship God with thankful hearts and faithful actions

Thanksgiving

Loving God,
we thank you for the gift of creation:
for oceans and forests, rivers and rain,
for fertile soil, clean air, and the
abundance of life.

We thank you for scientists,
conservationists, farmers, activists, and
communities who work tirelessly to
protect the environment and seek
sustainable ways of living.

We thank you for moments of resilience
and solidarity when neighbours help one
another after floods, fires, and storms.

May these signs of compassion remind us
that hope is still alive.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession / Penitence

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not cared for
your creation as you intended.

We have consumed without thought,
wasted precious resources,
and ignored the cries of the poor and the
earth.

Lord, forgive us
when convenience becomes more
important than compassion,
when profit is valued above people,
and when fear prevents us from acting
courageously.

Silence for reflection.

Restore us, O God.
Teach us to live gently upon the earth,
to act justly toward future generations,
and to walk humbly with you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Intercessions

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

For the earth, wounded by pollution,
exploitation, and climate change,
that nations and leaders may work
together with urgency and wisdom
to protect creation and reduce
environmental destruction.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For communities affected by floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires in Southern Africa and throughout the world, that they may receive comfort, rebuilding support, and renewed hope.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For governments, businesses, and industries, that economic decisions may reflect justice, sustainability, and care for future generations.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For young people who carry anxiety about the future of the planet, that they may be empowered with courage, creativity, and opportunity to shape a better world.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For the Church, that we may lead by example in caring for creation through worship, education, advocacy, and daily living.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For all who are sick, grieving, or struggling today, especially those whose lives have been disrupted by environmental disasters, that Christ's healing presence may restore and strengthen them.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who calmed the storm and brought life where there was despair.

Amen.

Blessing and Sending Out

May God the Creator, who entrusted the earth to our care, give you wisdom to protect creation.

May Christ Jesus, who brings healing and renewal, strengthen you to act with justice and compassion.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you to live simply, love generously, and work courageously for climate justice and peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Sending Out

Go into the world to love God, to serve your neighbour, and to care for creation.

Go in peace to act justly, live sustainably, and walk humbly with God.

Amen.

Bible Study

THE WOMAN WHO WAS BLEEDING

1. What do you think life had been like for her during the last 12 years?
2. In which ways can we say that the Earth is 'bleeding'?

THE LITTLE GIRL

1. How do you think the family felt?
2. Which part of climate change and environmental degradation makes you feel hopeless?

OUR RESPONSE

1. How do you think the woman felt when she reached out her hand to Jesus?
 2. Why did Jairus think that Jesus could heal his daughter even though she was dead?
 3. What are the small acts of faith and hope that we can do to help the bleeding earth?
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