



into the Melting Pot

the question is more important than the answer

Sunday 14 February 2021

Climate Change & Extinction Rebellion (by Zoom)

The Progressive Christian Network Britain has commissioned a series of short films under the title 'made of stories'. The films are about six minutes long, and for this discussion, we will be using 'Holly's story' - it can be found at <https://madeofstories.uk/holly/>. I suggest it is worth watching prior to our Zoom meeting, although I will be 'sharing' it during the first part of our meeting.

Below are some of the (edited) resources that go with the film.

Holly tells of her commitment, as a Christian climate activist, to "change the society that we live in so that its easier for everyone to be able to live a lower carbon footprint". She joins with others from Extinction Rebellion and speaks of non-violent direct action.

The films speak to both heart and head and we might want to consider these prompts

- What were the immediate emotions you felt after the film ended?
- What feelings did you have about the person in the story?
- Were there aspects of the story and/or the issues raised that made you angry? sad? encouraged?
- What surprised you?
- What challenged you?

Jesus

"Jesus was a huge activist . . . he carried out direct action himself. This is very much like the early church, it feels very raw, it's finding its form and we are relying on each other, to support each other and stand up for justice".

- Drawing on your understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus and from what we know of the early church, **what sort of place do you think climate activism should have in the church of today?**

God and the Universe

Whatever your understanding of God and the Universe, and whether you believe in a 'creator God' or not, the world is an unimaginably beautiful place, and the only home we have. All of the Universe, the animals, the species, the eco-systems, are all marvellous and precious.

- In the context of climate chaos and the threatening destruction of so much of our natural world, **where does this lead you in your theological thinking?**
- Extinction Rebellion uses non-violent civil disobedience as a central strategy to bring about the necessary political, economic and legal change needed. **What are your feelings about this?**
- If you had been one of the shoppers targeted by Holly with her leaflets, **what would your response have been, and why?**

Connecting

“When I am taking part in non-violent direct action, for me it’s the time when my faith comes alive and I feel closest to God”.

- **Can you connect with those feelings in your experience?**
- **What kind of questions does the film raise**
 - **about our society**
 - **about us as individuals**
 - **about the role of religion**
 - **about the Christian faith?**
- **What actions might you want to take after seeing the film?**

Additional Resources

Many organisations and websites give information on the science of climate change and the actions being taken:

- www.ipcc.ch The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The site points to its many reports.
- www.un.org The United Nations site has much on climate change
- www.theclimatecoalition.org is the UK’s largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change
- www.churchofengland.org/environment Shrinking the Footprint is the C of E’s environment campaign
- www.christianclimateaction.org represented by Holly on the film
- www.rebellion.earth for Extinction Rebellion
- www.hfft.org.uk Hope for the Future specialises in training citizens to work with MPs on climate change
- www.sgr.org.uk Scientists for Global Responsibility
- ‘Time to Act’ A Resource Book by the Christians in Extinction Rebellion, published by SPCK, 2020
- ‘This Changes Everything’ by Naomi Klein, published by Penguin 2015
- ‘The Uninhabitable Earth’ by David Wallace- Wells, by Penguin, 2019

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a great deal of reflection about the environment and doubtless books and articles will soon appear.