

## Week 6 Humans and other animals

### Opening Music

John Rutter, *Look At The World*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otw\\_zbhd3gE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otw_zbhd3gE)

### Reading

*Genesis 1:24-31*

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

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

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## Reflection

You made us new and beautiful today,  
Your Spirit softened us like morning dew,  
Your Image shining from us through the clay,  
You made us new.

You woke us and we knew ourselves in you,  
We walked together at the close of day,  
You trusted us and called us to be true.

When we forsook your love and turned away  
You came and sought us where we hid from you,  
And on the cross, in darkness, on this day  
You made us new.

*Malcolm Guite*

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2015/08/21/seven-whole-days-the-sixth-day-humanity/>

‘The Kingdom’

It's a long way off but inside it  
There are quite different things going on: Festivals at which the poor man  
Is king and the consumptive is  
Healed; mirrors in which the blind look Back at themselves and love looks at them  
Back; and industry is for mending  
The bent bones and the minds fractured By life. It's a long way off, but to get  
There takes no time and admission  
Is free, if you will purge yourself  
Of desire, and present yourself with  
Your need only and the simple offering  
Of your faith, green as a leaf.

*R.S.Thomas*

## Music

John Rutter, *For the Beauty of the Earth*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbDoMflYErE>

## Prayer

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.  
Forgive us for taking without giving,  
reaping without sowing.  
Open our eyes to see,  
our lips to praise  
and our hands to share.  
May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread  
and our footsteps be worthy of following,  
for they lead to you.

[https://www.faithandworship.com/creation\\_prayers.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/creation_prayers.htm)

Almighty God,  
You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.  
You created humankind in your own image and it was very good;  
Grant us the courage to recognise our failure to maintain your creation.  
By your grace help us to halt the degradation of our environment.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who came that all may have life in all its fullness.

**Amen**

*(The World is our Host 2015)*

## Closing Music

The Porter's Gate, *Christ Has No Body Now But Yours*