

Brad Coath's story



Lighting a candle for worship, 11th October 2020, Season of Creation 4

*I light this candle as a reminder of Jesus' words -
You are the light of the world.
It's a reminder of our call to resist ways of living
in a convenience and consumer culture
And to live more deeply into ways of caring for
and partnering with the land on which we live.*

Our worship theme continues to be Season of Creation; this brings us to reflect on how This candle was given to us ten years ago when we began with Urban Neighbours of Hope, a missional order which we are a part of (and which Peter Blair touched on in his candle story). It symbolises our shared commitments as part of UNOH to four things: first of all, it is a commitment to care for and partner with one another, as UNOH members, and to the places in which we live. Second, it is a commitment to being present in our neighbourhoods - to live locally in ways which seek to express Jesus' call to the margins of society. Thirdly, it is a commitment to live simply, recognising our own privilege and responsibility to our neighbours and to God's creation. And fourth, it is a commitment to participating in God's activity of shalom, in ways that express hospitality, justice, and hope.

None of these things are by any means unique to UNOH, but we're thankful for the way in which they continue to shape us, and we're reminded in this symbol of a candle, that we're not alone, and that we seek to live not out of our own energy, but God's.

Brad Coath 11-10-20