

## James Clough's story



### Lighting a candle for worship, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Season of Creation 3

*I light this candle, one small part of the bounty of God's creation.  
As we learn more each day that creation is ours to look after,  
let the candle be one more ancient ritual that informs our future.*

Our worship theme continues to be Season of Creation; this brings us to reflect on how the Climate Action Group was formed amidst pessimistic and challenging concerns: the planet is in a climate crisis and national governments are doing too little about it, held back by narrow interests. But immediately when we came together, we found a trove of reasons for optimism, and I believe this is what our worship candle can help us celebrate. The most obvious reason to celebrate is that so many solutions are now available: people have invented, refined and built many pieces of the sustainability puzzle from wind turbines to low-carbon concrete. This has created millions of jobs that didn't exist before and given many communities more control over their infrastructure and livelihoods. The CA Group gets to engage with these solutions, beginning with the switch to 100% green power for the church. Further we can be inspired by the millions of people who might have previously left this issue alone but now advocate for better leadership on sustainability and also demand more just policies in other areas. The connection that we've formed with Friends Of the Earth through the CA Group will endure.

Even the candle itself is a small symbol of the flourishing of sustainable life: once candles required animal or mineral wax, but now they come from sustainable plantations.

*James Clough, 4-10-20*