

> Season of Creation 2021

We offered a Season of Creation across four Sundays – **20th & 27th September, 4th & 11th October.**

Across the four Sundays we connected with specific components of the Climate Action Plan. Members of the Climate Action Group offered presentations during the offering. You can access the service video, prayers, reflections and order of service and the blogs from the presentations.

20/9, [Season of Creation 1](#) with Kate Scull – [Climate Action Plan](#),

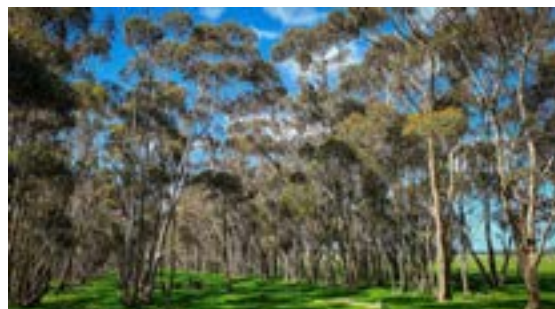
27/9, [Season of Creation 2](#) with Linda Wannan – [#Buildbackbetter](#)

4/10, [Season of Creation 3](#) with Gwen Arnold offering in invitation to [make a Commitment to Climate Change](#)

11/10, [Season of Creation 4](#) we [celebrated the commitments](#) made by members of the congregation

Each Sunday we offered this Season of Creation prayer.

Read [#BuildBackBetter: A Just Recovery Post-COVID-19](#)



Brunswick Uniting Church

Climate Action Commitment

*As people of God living in a time
Climate Crisis, we commit to act to
reduce our carbon footprint by:*

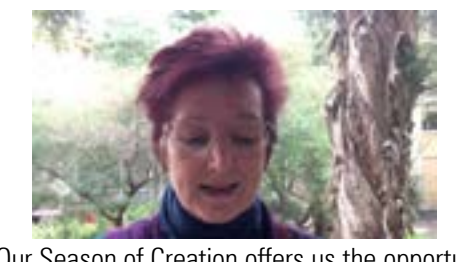


20th September, [Season of Creation 1](#), Exodus 16:1-15; John 6:30-35

Amelia Ware welcomed us to worship from her parents' farm near Woorndoo, where she is currently living to help out with the lambing season. On this first Sunday in the Season of Creation we explored the relationship of the Creation to the creation and asked 'What are the miracles to be found in creation every day, if we listen for the truth of what God would lead us to see?'



Dave and Clara shared a conversation about the challenges of lockdown, manna and the bread of heaven.



Our Season of Creation offers us the opportunity to reflect on our response to the climate crisis, inspired by our Climate Crisis Action Plan. And so the focus of Ian's reflection, What has God got to do with it?, was Commitment 1 - to continue to develop our theology and discipleship beginning with the question '[What's God got to do with it?](#)' He invited us to join with the Israelites for a bit of a whinge about freedom. Ian compared the challenge of freedom for both the Israelites - freedom from slavery but facing starvation and our freedom in isolation - the freedom to choose who to respond. Ian reminded us that '*In the wilderness God provides for us, together with all other creatures, from the evolved Earth itself. Our dependence on the Creator is a dependence on the creation in which God meets us and leads us. The bread of life is the stuff of creation, there is as much as each of us needs, and we are not free to exploit, destroy and consume it without limits.*' Ian concluded '*In this time of climate crisis and pandemic, where do we look to find that bread? ... Do we trust in the One to whom Jesus invites us to pray, give us today our daily bread. Amen.*



[Read the order of service](#) or [watch again on YouTube](#)

27th September, [Season of Creation 2](#), Exodus 17:1-7; John 7:37-39



Kirsty Bennett welcomed us to worship from the banks of the Merri Creek. As we celebrated God's creation we focussed on water and the Exodus story of water flowing from the rock in the wilderness, and the Merri Creek, the beautiful waterway which runs through many of our neighbourhoods.



Responding to this call, we commit ourselves to work for justice, reconciliation, and care of the earth.



[The Theology that matters](#) - The question Ian offered us for the second Sunday in our Season of Creation series is one faced by the ancient Israelites *'Is God among us or not?'* To help explore this question Ian shared Richard Cizik's story and specifically his second conversion to science leading him to become *'one of the leaders of the "Creation Care" movement among evangelical Xns lobbying for legislation to curb global warming'*. Ian reminded us of the challenge of Fundamentalist Christian Apocalyptic Theology. Reflecting on Moses response to the complaining Israelites and God's command to Moses *"strike that rock over there and water will come out of it ..."* Ian said that *'I believe God does have the future of the earth all in hand, it's just that the hand in question is the one on the end of your arm. ... Yes, God has it all in hand, and so we must do everything, rather than nothing, to mitigate the effects of climate change.'* And he concluded *'The theology that matters is the theology that moves us to action. ... The ONLY way our God works is by entering into the beloved creation and becoming one with it, one with us. So is God among us or not? Raise your hand to strike the rock and show the world the answer.'*



[Read the order of service](#) or [watch again on YouTube](#)



Here at Clyde Street kindergarten we would like to say thank you to the Wurundjeri people for letting us share your land. We promise to look after it, and people and animals, too. Thank you

4th October, [Season of Creation 3](#), Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-17; Matthew 26:26-30 The season of Creation continued for the first two Sundays in October. Helen Burnham invited us to walk with her by the Yarra River and Darebin Creek acknowledging the many animals she is encountering on her daily walks. With a focus on Blessing the Animals during worship we enjoyed short videos acknowledging the animals that companion us in our homes. Janet Watson Kruse explored the Ten Commandments through Godly Play inviting us to think of them as the Ten Best Ways to Live.



Ian's reflection, [The Communion of all Creatures](#), was offered as a meditative time of reflection on our fast with images, words and music. The words are written by Julie Perrin, Ian took the images, and Peter, Catherine, Matthew, Shawn, Natalie and Dan made the music. And the prayer of the empty hands is from the Uniting Earth Climate Worship Liturgy.



[Read the order of service](#) or [watch again on YouTube](#)



11th October, [Season of Creation 4](#), Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-17; Matthew 26:26-30 We engaged with the mystery of Creation and asked 'who are we that we think to control and impose order over this mystery?'. Clara and Dave continued to lead us through Moses' epic journey where the people in their despair sought to gain control over their situation by building a golden calf to worship.



We welcomed Geoff Thompson as our preacher. Geoff is a member of our congregation who teaches theology at Pilgrim Theological College, the UCA's theological college in Parkville. In his reflection '[The good diversity of God's creation](#)' he reminded us that 'creation is a very rich part of the network of Christian beliefs' and also 'the focus of some of the major distortions of the Christian faith'. Geoff affirmed that our season of creation has been a reminder that words matter and invited us to listen to a dissenting voice, a school of thought in the books of Ecclesiastes and Job. Concluding he set this dissenting voice alongside the opening chapters of Genesis with the focus on creating order out of chaos. 'To give this mysterious diversity a higher profile in our thinking about creation becomes another tool to help us push back against the narratives of ordering that so easily yield to narratives of domination. And so this dissenting voice in scripture can prod, provoke and resource us more fully to honour what God has made, to observe it more carefully, and let it speak to us. And it might help us resist straightening out the wrinkles that add to the beauty and majesty of creation. Amen.'



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