

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Meditation



Then the Lord God put the man in the garden to cultivate it and guard it.

(Genesis 2:15)

And what a beautiful garden it can be. I wonder what images come to mind as you think of the Garden that is Scotland?

The beauty of the West Coast and the beaches of the Hebrides?

The grandeur of Glen Coe, the Mamores and the mountains of the North West.

Beinn Alligin, Liathach and Beinn Eighe.

Or out to the Cuillin tops of Skye

The great lochs

Lomond, Ness and Mariee

The magnificent sweep of the Cairngorms and the rivers that run from the high tops.

Little streams growing into the Dee and the Spey,

Rivers captured by the writer Nan Shepherd

*So without sediment
Run the clear burns of my country,
Fiercely pure,
Transparent as light
Gathered into its own unity,
Lucent and without colour;
Or green,
Like clear deeps of air,
Light massed upon itself.*

Maybe your thoughts are drawn to the East
and the North Sea and the Firths - Moray,
Cromarty, Tay, Forth

The North Sea waves crashing on the rock
headlands.

Or maybe your heart is drawn to the cities
Kelvingrove, Princes Street Gardens,

Or closer to home and the beauty of our own
gardens with their flowers, insects and birds.

So much in our garden for us to cultivate
to look after

to steward

to pass on as our inheritance for the generations to come.

So much calling us to stop, look and appreciate.

But of course the garden is also global with the beauty and the grandeur of Scotland being repeated right round the world

The mountains and rivers,

oceans, seas and lochs

the valleys and canyons.

The full drama of creation

The biodiversity of creation

The interdependence in creation

The great fragility of creation.

At a service like this which draws from the world's response to God, it is right and proper to place creation at the core

and to ask of ourselves the single most important question that could be asked.

Is the history of Christian one of cultivating and guarding the garden that God has given us or is it a history of exploitation, destruction and greed.

As the prayers and thoughts of this service resonate around the world may we take a few moments to reflect on where we stand

Actively cultivating and guarding or tacitly or deliberately exploiting and destroying?

Then the Lord God put the man in the garden to cultivate it and guard it.

May we never cease to cultivate and guard God's gift to humanity

Amen

(By Rev Malcolm Rooney, Kirriemuir)