

Land as Gift, as Promise, as Partnership

Creation Care Conference, Blackburn Cathedral
1 November 2025

Land as Gift





God said, 'Let the waters under heaven be gathered into one place, so that dry land may appear'; and so it was. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters he called seas; and God saw that it was good.

God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures, according to their kind ...

Genesis 1, 9-10 & 24



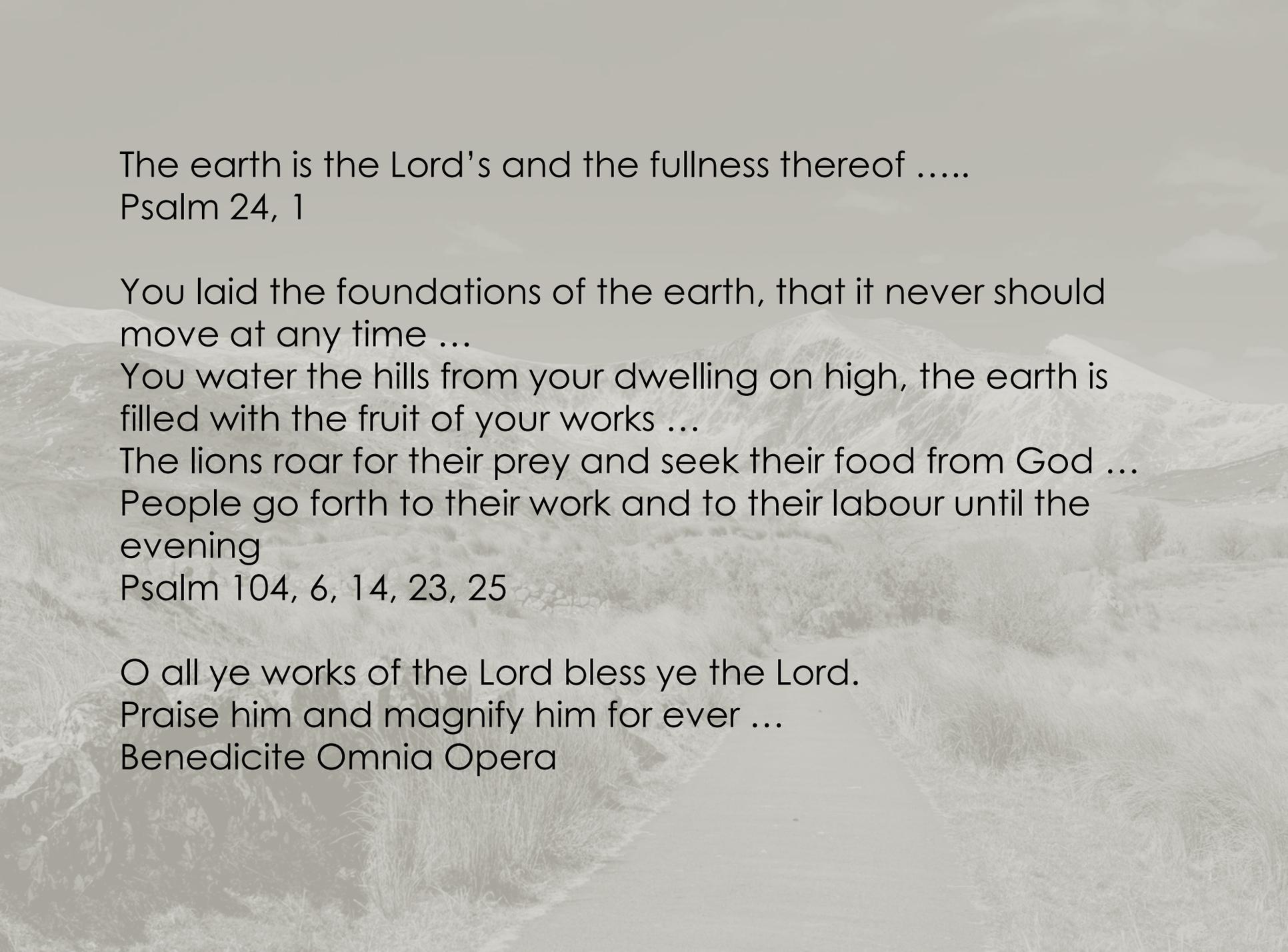
Then the Lord God formed a man (*adam*) from the dust of the ground (*adamah*) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2, 7



He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

Genesis 2, 19



The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof

Psalm 24, 1

You laid the foundations of the earth, that it never should
move at any time ...

You water the hills from your dwelling on high, the earth is
filled with the fruit of your works ...

The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God ...

People go forth to their work and to their labour until the
evening

Psalm 104, 6, 14, 23, 25

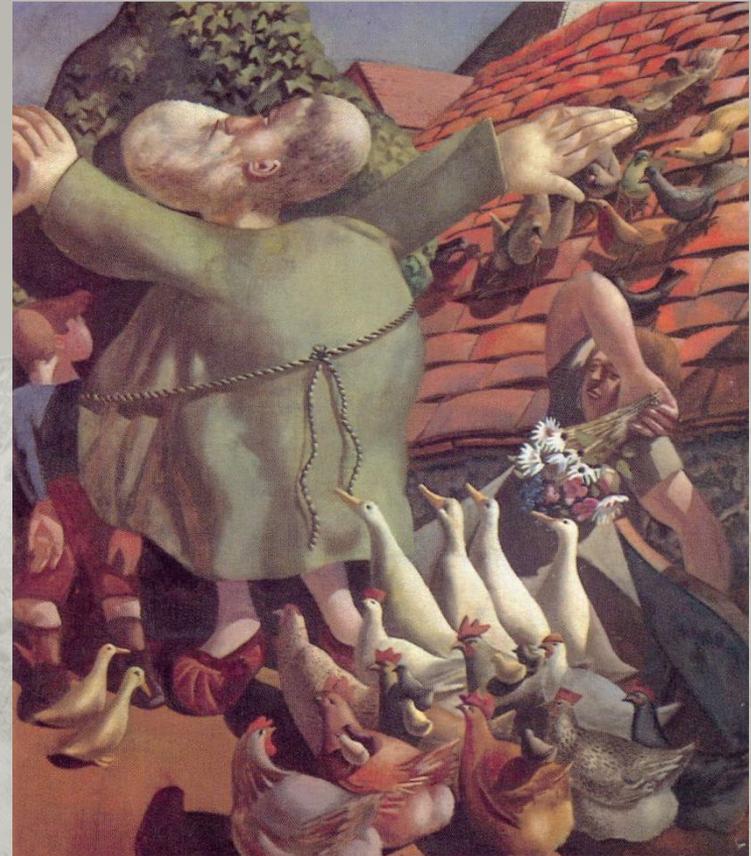
O all ye works of the Lord bless ye the Lord.

Praise him and magnify him for ever ...

Benedicite Omnia Opera

Be praised my Lord through
all your creatures especially
brother Sun ...
and Sister Moon ...
and Brother wind ...
and Sister Water ...
and Brother Fire ...
and Sister Mother Earth who
sustains us and governs us
and who brings forth varied
fruits, colourful flowers and
herbs

St Francis of Assisi
Canticle of the Sun



Questions

What opportunities do we make in our prayers and worship, in the life of the Church, to celebrate the wonder of Creation and the gift of land?

What lands do we have in our churchyards in our diocesan glebe in the Church

Commissioners estate

in our community
greenspace
in own backyard?



Land as Promise



The Promised Land
Deuteronomy 6,1-15 &
8,10

The Lord your God will
bring you into the land
which he swore to your
forefathers to give you ...
When you eat your fill
there, be careful not to
forget the Lord who
brought you out of the
land of slavery ...

When you have eaten
and are satisfied, praise
the Lord your God for the
good land he has given
you.



Naboth's Vineyard I Kings 21, 1-16

Naboth of Jezreel had a vineyard near the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. One day Ahab made a proposal to Naboth: 'Your vineyard is close to my palace; let me have it for a garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange for it or, if you prefer, its value in silver.' But Naboth answered, 'The Lord forbid ...'



Another Vineyard (Matthew 21, 33-44)

Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard: he put a wall around it, hewed out a winepress and built a watch-tower; then he let it to vine-growers and went abroad. When the vintage season arrived he sent his servants to the tenants to collect the produce due to him ...



More fruit
Amos 8, 1-6

This was what the Lord God showed me : there was a basket of summer fruit, and he said. 'What are you looking at Amos?' I answered, 'A basket of ripe summer fruit.'

Then the Lord said to me, 'Truly the time is ripe for my people Israel ... their feast will be their funeral.'









Questions

In what ways do we betray the promise which God offers us in the land where we find ourselves?

How can we lament the damage we do to God's Creation?

How can we put right our wrongful use of the land?



Land as Partnership











Question

What do we do now?

