

2025-02-23 6.30pm Evensong Sermon ... Mrs Jane Rylands

Genesis 1:1 – 2.2, Matthew 6:25 - end

What beautiful texts we have been treated to this evening.

The opening verses of our Bible show us our creator God shared by, I believe, a writer who marvelled at the wonders of the world and saw it as a complete work of art, mutually essential, mutually beneficial.

You must all have experienced that feeling of imagining something and as you put it into reality realising that it's going to work and being able to say – it is good.

The climax of this story is human-kind being made in God's own image, but it is in relation to the interconnectedness of the whole that we hear that God saw everything that he made and indeed it was **very** good.

We then heard one small part of the Sermon on the Mount. Wonderful passages that have garnered the respect of many non-Christians for describing a highly ethical way of life, Mahatma Gandhi amongst them.

Those of us who are Christian, however, hear in these words, Jesus re-explaining God's purposes for us and for the world, a world that was made to work in concert with itself.

Who, seeking to know the meaning of life and body, would think that they can be boiled down just to food and clothes? Perhaps it is easy for us to say that though – food is easy to come by, **we** will rarely, if ever, have gone without; clothes too, I'm sure that even if we decide not to buy another item for that occasion, we have a perfectly acceptable option B, C or D in our cupboards.

Perhaps you and I need to think in terms of another obsession that we might have to really appreciate the value of the promise that this passage holds. What is it that causes us to worry ourselves to distraction?

I wonder whether lack of time might be an example – and one which this week seems to fit with the 6 day week and the day of rest of Genesis.

Failing health is another.

Jesus tells us that God provides abundantly and gloriously for what God has made. He tells us that our priority is to seek - more than seek, 'STRIVE' in our translation, the kingdom of God.

To do this, we must look beyond ourselves, look particularly to the welfare of other people, but also to the welfare of the physical space we inhabit and the plants and animals that we share it with.

Jesus's promise is that God will look after us if we open our eyes to the needs around us and do something about them.

So do I think you'll stop worrying tomorrow? No!

Do I think that it's easy to park worry and to focus on someone else's needs – no again! Because when you're worried it can be all-consuming and you don't have space to take on anything else, or even notice anything much else.

Do I think that these verses are of no help if you are worried – actually that's a no too. Because these verses beautifully remind us how much God cares – and we can sense it on a lovely day like yesterday when it was easy to catch a glimpse of God's extravagant care for God's creation – and maybe, just maybe, we might be encouraged to trust God to care for us too.