

If you were able to watch our online service yesterday or just had a look through the readings, you will no doubt have noticed the references to Jesus even in the Old Testament Proverbs verses. But Simon's sermon picked up on another theme of the readings – God's creation.

I thought it would be interesting to look at the Psalm set for yesterday too, to see what the theme of that would be. It is Psalm 104 which is a wonderful psalm. The reading for yesterday was only verses 1 and 26 to the end, but I suggest that you read the whole psalm.

It's a psalm of two halves. The first part tells us that the earth is not a stage for us. In fact, we are only a very small part in the whole story. We are participating in a much greater, wider existence. We are important as far as our work is concerned, but we must play our part, loving the earth, and so blessing God.

The second part – the section set for yesterday – encourages us to think of deeper and longer patterns of existence, way beyond our own comprehension and experience. As Ian Adams says in *Reflections on the Psalms* (Church House Publishing), "Yesterday is strong in memory; today is here; and tomorrow looms large.... But the psalm asks us to see our lives in a wider setting." He goes on to say that we should join in the song of praise and joy, carrying on the songs that people have sung before us and as our song fades it will be picked up by others and will continue to be sung long after we have returned to dust.

The important connection with yesterday's other readings is that we have only a small part in creation as we are at the end of the list of God's work – the sea, the land, the creatures including the Leviathan are all important to the Lord! We must not be so arrogant that we think the earth is there for our use only. The psalmist lets us know how beautiful creation is and there are echoes of God's reaction at the end of his creative work in Genesis – and it was very good.

So let us pray:

Creator God,
send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,
that the whole creation,
in its groaning and striving,
may know your loving purpose
and come to reflect your glory;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen