



Reflection Sheet - 6 September 2026

Jesus Is Lord! Creation's Voice Proclaims It

Festival of Creation in Christ

Colossians 1.15-20 | John 1.1-14



Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, **and in him all things hold together.**

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

NRSV



John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

NRSV

Reflect

Living in Rural Ainsty, creation is difficult to ignore. Fields change colour, crops are harvested, hedgerows change and the seasons move on.

But today isn't simply about appreciating creation.

It is about **Jesus and creation**.

Paul tells us that everything was created **through Jesus and for Jesus**, and then makes this extraordinary statement:

“In him all things hold together.”

John takes us even further back. Before Bethlehem, before Abraham, before the earth beneath our feet or the stars above us:

Jesus was there.

And yet the Creator entered his creation.

Eugene Peterson's *The Message* memorably expresses John 1.14:

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”

God didn't love his creation from a safe distance. **He moved in.**

And through Jesus' death and resurrection, God is at work not abandoning his creation, but **reconciling all things to himself**.

Creation belongs to Jesus.

And so do we.



For Reflection

1. “In him all things hold together.”

Where in your life do things feel secure and held together at the moment? Where do they feel rather less so?

2. What are you trying to hold together yourself?

Is there something you need to place more deliberately into Jesus' hands?

3. “All things have been created through him and for him.”

How might knowing that creation belongs to Jesus change the way you see the countryside and community around you?

4. “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”

Where might Jesus already be at work in *our* neighbourhoods in Rural Ainsty?

5. Next week we begin *Practicing the Way*.

What might it look like this week simply to make a little more space to **be with Jesus**?



Your Paperclip

You probably noticed that your service sheet and reflection sheet were **held together by a paperclip** today.

Take it home with you.

Put it somewhere you will see it - beside the kettle, on your desk, in your Bible, or perhaps use it to mark this week's reflection.

Every time you notice it, remember Paul's words:

“In him all things hold together.”

And remember: **you don't have to hold everything together yourself.**

Jesus is Lord of creation.

The world belongs to him.

Your life belongs to him.

And you are held by him.



A Practice for This Week

At some point this week:

Stop.

Look.

Notice.

Look at the creation around you - a field, a tree, the sky, your garden, an animal, the changing season.

Then remember:

This was made through Jesus.

This belongs to Jesus.

This is being reconciled through Jesus.

And so am I.

Then don't rush on.

Spend a few moments simply **being with Jesus.**



Prayer

Lord Jesus,
through you all things were made,
and in you all things hold together.

Thank you for the beauty of the world around us,
for fields and trees,
for changing seasons,
and for the people and places we call home.

Thank you that you did not remain distant,
but became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood.

When life feels as though it is coming apart,
remind us that we do not have to hold everything together ourselves.

Teach us to trust you,
to care for what belongs to you,
and to recognise your presence among us.

As we begin *Practicing the Way*,
teach us to be with you,
to become like you,
and to do what you did. May our lives join with the whole of creation in proclaiming:

Jesus is Lord.

Amen.