

Commentary by Margot Hodson to accompany her PPT slides for the Opening Homily

Slide Number Slide commentary

1. Conference Logo
2. Page for a very brief intro for Margot Hodson:
 - a. Vicar of Haddenham Benefice in Buckinghamshire
 - b. Environmental theologian
 - c. Co-author of A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues – that is published today.
3. Do you sometimes feel that the whole world is falling apart?
 - i. We fear the climate might be out of control
 - ii. We have terrible human consequences with droughts and floods
 - iii. There are other major environmental problems
 - iv. And on top of all of this is **War** with its horrific consequences of suffering, **refugees**, and **destruction of people, communities** and the **environment**.
- b. How can we understand this world through the eyes of faith? How can we hold it together?
- c. We can find some of the answers to these questions in the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Colossians.
4. Paul explains the amazing connection between Christ and creation:
 - a. All things in creation were created through Christ and for Christ
 - b. this means they are valuable in their own right
 - c. It means that creation belongs to him

5. But even more than that
 - In Christ **all things hold together**
 - The astonishing **resurrection power** of Christ --
 - **Ripples through** the whole of our creation

Whatever we feel about the catastrophes that seem to overwhelm our world

- We can **trust** that **Christ holds it**
- Suffering and damaged as it is

He holds it – as a **father holds an injured child**.

6. But there is more: he holds it as the head of his Church. We sometimes glibly say “We are the body of Christ”. But do we really think about that? If Christ is holding Creation and we are his body – Then we find ourselves – in some way – holding it too.
7. **And that is why it hurts. Not only do we feel the pain as fellow humans and creatures on the planet – We feel the pain of creation because we are in Christ and Christ is holding our Wounded Planet**
8. **But there is hope**
 - a. All of God dwells in Christ – who died to reconcile all things
 - b. -All of creation --- whether things on earth or things in heaven.....
9.by making **peace** through his blood, shed on the cross. This conference is to better understand what this reconciliation means for our wounded planet and to know how to act as his body.
10. Sometimes as Christians – we can slightly lose the plot. We can miss what we are really called to be. We can get bogged down in running the church – being an institution - that we forget what we really are. This conference is a wakeup call – for all of us - to understand what it really means to be Christ's Body -----

11. And to **hold Creation with him**. To Reconcile a Wounded Planet as **he makes peace** through his blood, shed on the cross. **Amen**