

CRACKED WIDE OPEN

Diocesan Lent Course 2021

Reflection One

Some words from the gospel for today.

He was with the wild beasts and the angels waited on him.

I want to think about two things, creation and worship.

Some of you might be familiar with the very haunting painting by Stanley Spencer, which shows Jesus kneeling, crouching in the desert with a Scorpion. He was with the wild beasts. And that sense of Jesus being alone and with creation, very close to, and also a particular aspect of creation, the Scorpion, the one that stings. That's part of today's reflection that the gospel presents to us.

But I want to move it a little bit further on. I want to reflect on why Jesus being in the desert is so important. And it's because we are dealing with one creation, with one humanity, with one redeemer of the human race. And we are about a people who are seeking to live in that dispensation of oneness.

Jesus is often referred to, particularly in Paul's writing as the new Adam. And just as Adam, in the Old Testament Genesis story, is spoken of as naming creation, and also as the person to whom God gives the responsibility of being a steward of creation so we, who are living in the light of the fall, are those who are responsible for creation. We are part of the single humanity and the earth is our common home.

This Lent, I hope we will take greater note of what that means. For as we worship, we are aware that the angels are with us - the joining points between earth and heaven - and it is our reverence for creation that we bring in our offering of praise and thanksgiving.