

# Seeds

September 2021

encourage - inspire - challenge

Augustine  
United Church

## God in all of creation

Revd Fiona  
Bennett



**M**onday, 4 October is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Francis is often depicted as a monk who liked animals, which I am sure he did, but Francis's sense of connection to nature went well "beyond the bird bath", as the Franciscan writer Richard Rohr commented.

Francis understood that the whole of the interconnected creation (including humans) was a revelation of God / the Holy One – the first incarnation. Francis also understood that to discover God / Holiness we need to open our perception to discovering God / Holiness in the ordinary – which means everything. God is not far off or remote, but breathtakingly close, everywhere.

This God is of the nature and character which Jesus showed us, but is also wild, diverse, interdependent and beyond our control, as is the natural world, yet always moving forward through seasons to birth new life.

This Creationtide (which began in September and ends on the Feast of St Francis) comes significantly in the advent to COP 26 and in the context of floods and fires rooted in global warming. As we harm the life and balances of the earth, we are destroying a masterpiece and cutting ourselves off from God.

But there is hope; there is hope in God's gift of human creativity and collaboration. There is hope in God's nature reflected in creation and in Jesus' resurrection, that new life will be born, even out of despair, injustice and death.

**"There is hope that new life will be born, even out of despair, injustice and death"**

May this Creationtide be a time to revel in God's presence / Holiness which is breathtakingly close, within us and beyond us at all times. May it also be a time when we act to stop destroying God's masterpiece, and discover in the changes and costs which this will inevitably bring a new and abundant life for all.

### TREE OF LIFE REQUEST

I am hoping through the autumn to build a Tree of Life. This is a tree of stories; stories which are full of hope for our planet. Stories of new technologies, different ways of doing things, inventiveness and wisdom which offer a healthy future for all life on planet earth.

If you come across stories which fill you with hope for our planet, please email them to me and I will add them to our Tree of Life.

### This Month

#### CONVERSION THERAPY

A personal experience of one woman's painful journey



#### YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

Combatting Loneliness with the AUC pastoral care team



#### LIVING PLASTIC-FREE

Katrina Tweedie on what she learnt during July



#### PENTECOSTAL ART

Celebrating Pentecost with new artwork for worship in church

