

Thought for the day – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

By Jill Howard-Gunasekera

Kit and I went to St Martin's in the Fields church in central London to see a light show called 'Life'. The idea behind it was to capture one day on planet earth from sunrise to sunset.

It was magical. There were beautiful images of animals, birds, fish, a whale, bees and insects, seeds, trees and plants, lots of colours and beautiful music.

Here's a [link](#) to my iPhone amateur recording. If you're sitting down having a coffee today you may enjoy watching it for 10 minutes! Unfortunately, it was only on for a week and finished on Saturday, but I hope they do more.

It reminded me of some things, Mark Rylance, an actor, who is concerned about climate change, said in an interview in the Guardian in 2022. Here's some excerpts: "He said he was 'a bit despairing of government' to lead the way towards a greener economy but the arts can tell 'stories to awaken compassion, to awaken people to make a change.'"

Here are some other quotes from the same interview:

"We also really need the arts to remind us how ... we are part of the same family as ... the nature around us".

"I feel like we've got to fall in love with nature again; we do incredible things for each other when we fall in love."

And I think he is talking about animal and earth welfare in our food processing systems, when he says: "We've been encouraged not to love animals, not to love plants, in order to enable us and others to be heartless about them and treat them as products and commodities to be used, and that's not working."

This very much reminds me of the way Native American Indian traditions talk about the honourable harvest, not taking more than we need, and honouring that which we take to sustain us.

"We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honour to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don't have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth's beings."

Robin Wall Kimmerer

And finally, this reminds me of our popular worship song, "He took all my shame away..." is Christ doing this work in us, taking all our shame away, as we worship and honour His sacrifice and by the power of his Holy Spirit, restore honour to all our relationships.

