

**Church of All Nations
September 7, 2025 Season of Creation
Luke 5:1-11**

The Season of Creation takes place from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and in Australia Wattle Day to 4 October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) It is an ecumenical observance with growing support as we become aware of the urgency of the task of preserving the creation or else we will not be preserved. The 2025 international theme, is 'Peace with creation'. The symbol, 'Garden of Peace', is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18 and envisions a war-torn, overexploited land transformed into one that is fertile and thriving.

Our theme on this first Sunday in the Season of Creation is God's oceans, seas and waters. Many happy childhood memories of summer days on the beach - or lake or river. Restorative recuperative power of oceans, beaches, solitary walks along water

Ancient Israelites largely fearful of ocean - not a great sea going people. The ocean was the dwelling place of primordial chaos and awaited the creative and order producing command of God to bring it under control.

We moderns still have some work to do to not see the ocean as a monster of chaos that threatens our lives but a huge living organism that originated life and that continues to sustain all life on earth. It can no longer be treated as God's enemy that must be subdued, but it must be treated as a part of God's creation that gave us life and continues to make life possible for us.

I say the Ocean because even though we call the Ocean by 5 different names, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern (Antarctic) there is only one Ocean. I asked at Rathdowne Place what percentage of the earth's surface is ocean and one person gave the response, "tiny". That's how we think of it isn't it. We land dwelling creatures have mentally revised the proportions so the earth is largely... well earth, when it is ocean. Our planet should be called ocean or water, not earth. Covering 71% of the Earth's surface in one interconnected body. the Ocean contains 321 million cubic miles of water.

This one gigantic Ocean contains 97% of the Earth's water in which somewhere in the neighbourhood of 250,000 different species of life make their home. Only about 5% of the Earth's Ocean has been explored by humans. The truth is that we humans know very little about the Ocean. We do know that at its deepest point, the Ocean reaches a depth of 11 kms 6.8 miles. Essendon airport is only 10 km. It did occur to me we really barely tinker with the ocean. We swim in it but only on the tiniest fringe where it washes up on the beach. Oh we sail on it on in boats and ships, but only on the very surface. Some brave souls do go into the depths in scuba diving but even then little more than a surface splash.

.The ocean is a world of mystery and beauty, of fascinating depth and spectacular life forms. The ocean is that vast domain many of our ancestors crossed to reach all parts of planet Earth. And the waters of the oceans are ultimately the waters of life for all the planet.

Water temperature, the salinity (or amount of salt in) the water and the direction of the wind keeps these currents moving, and these currents become home for, and shape, our earth's eco-systems, creating rich sources of food for us and for other organisms. The waters of the oceans both reflect and store the sun's heat, regulate our climate, and their movement gives rise to weather patterns of cloud and rain. All life depends on the health of our oceans. It goes without saying we should definitely not be treating the ocean as a flushing toilet for our waste.

Oceans play a major role in life as we know it and this is picked up in biblical stories of creation. Deep, deep, darkness harbours mysteries of our origins over which the creator of all that is brooded and the roach swept over the face of the deep drawing forth life; our primal memories of the Sea inspired perhaps, by the breaking of the waters that heralded our own birth. Some four billion years ago, the miracle of tiny, living cells percolating in the depths remains a mystery we long to unravel. Six hundred million years ago, life miraculously moves onto the land, out of the waters of our gestating mother the Earth life emerges in all its magnificent complexities

Jesus tells those who would follow him to “put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” (Luke 5:4) When they did as he said their nets were filled with so great a haul that their boats nearly sank. At that moment Jesus drew a parallel between the power of these tiny fish, which alone were barely a meal but together could sink a boat, and the people of Galilee, who alone were dying of poverty, but together could change the world. “Do not be afraid,” he said, “from now on you will be catching people.” (v. 10)

In the midst of the turbulence we long for calm clear waters in which to sail. Fearful of the depths, can we hear Jesus, urging us to go deeper. Deeper, where pretensions having floated to the surface give way to authentic connections. Deeper, where we must hone our focus in order to see what really matters. Deeper, where conscious communication opens our lungs so that we can breathe with compassion. Deeper, where the love that lives in us longs to stir us beyond our fear. Deeper, where mystery dwells, compels, and empowers. Deeper, where darkness gives birth to awakening.