Sermon: **From the sky you send rain on the hills… You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for man to use**

(Ps 104.13,14)

Global warming, holes in the ozone layer, overpopulation, water shortages, pollution, extinctions.

Tired of hearing about these? ‘Always banging on’, ‘messages of doom’, ‘what can we do about them?’  
Should we protect near-extinction animals/plants; all animals die, so why shouldn’t species die too?

Are these things Christians should be concerned about, or are they only for the politically minded?

Ecology was not in the minds of Psalmist or Jesus, it was not a word or issue.

And if the Gospel is supposed to be good news, where is the good news here?

[1] Connections.

God sends rain (Ps 104.13), made grass & plants grow (v14), made sun & moon to mark time (vv19f).

In Psalm there are links between parts of creation, dependency.

It tells us we are only part of a much bigger picture, with a Creator behind it all.   
See also Lk 12.22-31: God caring for crows and wild flowers, so why worry?

This means – God is involved, and it is not all down to us to sort out. That is good news.

However if God is behind all, should he not do more, or is this what stewardship means?

[2] Stewardship.

Genesis creation stories (Gen 1.28). In the past this meant doing what we want, exploitation.

When humans came (Maori & pakeha) NZ seemed to have abundance, but not so (moas destroyed, kauri felled, whales depleted).

Today Gen 1.28 means stewardship. What should it look like today? NB. We are stewards of this church – we do not own it! It means we cannot do what we like. Similarly with the planet.

As stewards, whether of church or of the earth, we co-operate with the ‘owners’.

[3] Co-operation with the Creator.

Co-operation means 2 things: knowing what the owner wants, and doing something about it.

What does God want? Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, ie all is ruled by God and restored to a natural balance.

Not doing that which deliberately hurts the planet (cloth bag)

What are we doing at church? What are you doing at home, or at work?

As we find good news our mind-set will change from depression to hope, from paralysis to action.