Sermon: **I’m now making my covenant with you & with your descendants, & with all living beings** (Gen 9.9-10)

Everyone knows and likes story of Noah’s Ark. Cute with its animals and a rainbow.
But it is a brutal story! Destruction of earth and all life with a massive flood by an angry God.

Also a story with odd bits –

* how many of each animal? (for clean animals and all birds – 7 pairs Gen 7.2-3),
* how many went out to repopulate? (six pairs – a pair of clean animals & birds sacrificed Gen 8.20),
* which bird sent out? (raven, then dove – three times),
* Ham cursed for seeing Noah naked! He had got drunk. (Gen 9.21-25)
* Why would God need a reminder with a sign? Was God that angry?

What is not all that important:

* did water cover whole earth?
* was all life destroyed except what was on the ark?

What is important:

* TEXT the rainbow covenant is with all living *creatures*, not just humans, ie God is on the side of life.
* We don’t control life on this planet, even though we often try to.
* We need some humility – life will continue on earth even if all humanity disappears. It happened with the dinosaurs.
* We acknowledge God, recognising our place with respect to God and creation.
* We need to work with God, who trusts us to co-operate.
God can be trusted to keep his side of the covenant. Can God trust *us* to keep *our* side?

Lent is a journey in which the darkness grows throughout (days shorten, Jesus life in increasing danger).

Sometimes to find the light or continue our journey we must go through a tunnel.

We need reminders of God’s presence and love, in those tunnels: eg. burning bush, pillars of fire and smoke, ark of covenant, Temple in Jerusalem; and Jesus gave sacraments of baptism and communion.

Here a rainbow is used. Is the rainbow really a reminder for God, or more one for us?