Sermon: **Do not worry …. Instead be concerned** (Luke 12.22 & 31)

Who likes food? All have our favourite dishes. Who likes wearing clothes? (glad to hear it!)

TEXT Jesus calls us not to worry about food or clothes. Easier said than done for some people.

Some desperate for food – folk on Bahamas? Brown bags. Some wear little but rags.

We can think of those in concentration camps, refugees from war or climate disaster. Surely they are right to worry! TEXT is not thinking of extremes. It is easy to pick holes and thus dismiss Jesus’ words.

In the Harry Potter world food just appears. Jesus’ answer seems a little simplistic like Hogwarts’ food. Clothes need washing, drying, if not ironing - they do not magically find their way to our wardrobes.

He is not saying we should be *uninterested* in food and clothes, but that we should not *worry* about them.

We have plenty to worry about – going into a retirement village, finances, relationships.   
Then there are bigger worries - life, survival of Christianity, climate crisis & extinctions of flora and fauna.

But those who worry are living in the future, and have lost sight of the present, the presence of God. TEXT.

But there is a big difference between concern and worry – one is active, one is passive. TEXT.

Jesus says if we want to be concerned about the future and desire to be active, then seek God’s Kingdom.

Sounds like a retreat from real life, spending all our time in prayer, worship and Bible Study.

In reality it is looking for God to be intimately involved in all of life, and trusting God in this.

This trust is not ‘ignore what is going on, cross your fingers and putting on a happy face’ or ‘put your fingers in ears and sing La, la, la, la’!

Faith takes life seriously but does not despair. “There is always hope” (Aragorn to young man before Battle of Helm’s Deep). But that hope does not mean “do nothing”; it is active.

For God’s Kingdom to become real we need to be active, not passive. Are you up for this?