

A Time of Reflection based on Genesis 1 and 2.

Voice 1: In the beginning God created

Voice 2: the heavens and the earth,

Voice 1: day and night,

Voice 2: and there was evening:

Voice 1: that was the first day.

Voice 3: By burning coal, oil and natural gas, we have released billions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, locking in warmth in what is known as the greenhouse effect.

Voice 2: Then God separated the waters

Voice 1: under and above the dome,

Voice 2: God called the dome, sky

Voice 1: and there was evening and morning:

Voice 2: that was the second day.

Voice 4: When sunlight strikes ice and snow, 80 percent is reflected back into space and 20 per cent is absorbed as heat. The opposite holds true for land and open water, further increasing the rise in temperature.

Voice 1: God summoned the waters under the dome.

Voice 2: to form the seas and let dry land appear.

Voice 1: and the earth put forth vegetation.

Voice 2: God saw that it was good.

Voice 1: That was the third day.

Voice 5: Melting glaciers will bring floods to some areas, while changing

sea temperature will shut down ocean currents and change rainfall patterns, causing droughts.

Voice 2: God made the sun to rule over the day.

Voice 1: the moon to rule over night.

Voice 2: And God saw that it was good:

Voice 6: Prolonged periods of drought will wreck harvests and destroy

lives, human and other species. Communities that depend on fragile agricultural cycles will be devastated.

Voice 1: God created every living thing

Voice 2: that moves and swims and flies.

Voice 1: God blessed them, saying,

Voice 2: 'Be fruitful and multiply':

Voice 1: that was the fifth day.

Voice 7: Everything will have to adapt to the effects of climate change, but

while rich people and nations can more readily afford to counter rising sea levels, or repair the damage caused by hurricanes, poorer countries cannot.

Voice 2: And God said,

Voice 1: 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind'.

Voice 2: and it was so.

Voice 1: and God saw that it was good.

Voice 8: The pressure that increasing floods, famine and drought will put on vulnerable countries will be devastating – for some developing countries, the effects of climate change are already catastrophic.

Voice 2: Then God said,

Voice 1: 'Let us make humankind in our image

Voice 2: and let them be carers of all the earth.'

Voice 1: God saw everything and indeed it was very good:

Voice 2: that was the sixth day.

Voice 1: On the seventh day God rested.

Voice 9: It is time to change the climate of apathy that prevails in our

privileged communities, and take action to stop global warming devastating the world's most vulnerable communities and habitats, on which so many depend for life.