

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## Our lives and their importance to God

It is a week that has, for many, brought to the surface familiar and horrid feelings of being out of step and out of place not only with the world, but also with the church herself.

I dare say this is the case regardless of the side you might find yourself; on any one of the divisive theological issues we contend with as a church.

The ship in which we have taken refuge may feel increasingly unseaworthy. Perhaps, after years of exhaustion and faithfulness, reserves are running out; perhaps there is a sense of there being no room on board any longer.

This past week, watching or participating in General Synod, has undoubtedly been costly for many; exhausting too for many of us in many ways.

We are no doubt very tired, and very sore, and with more than a little fear for what the future might hold, whether for ourselves as individuals or as members of Christ's church.

The wound is fresh (or re-opened) for some; the sense of urgency is overwhelming. What is God asking us to do now, in this moment, in the middle of all this pain, frustration and vulnerability?

In all the emotion and turmoil, Matthew 6.25-end is a welcome gospel reading this week. We are given a reprieve – a pastoral vignette evoking peace, stillness and reassurance through both word and image.

We're reminded that the birds of the air and the flowers of the field are all reliant on God for life, carried by him through the changes and dangers of the world.

And we're reminded of both the brevity of our life and its importance to God. The things we do and see and experience are simultaneously so important as to impact the whole of creation, time and space and so minuscule as not to interfere at all with the plans and promises of God.

God who is altogether too powerful, too deep and broad and high for our fallenness and lack of love to overcome.

We're reminded that it's one step, one day at a time, each according to their daily portion. To carry out our part unflinchingly and faithfully, regardless of whatever tomorrow might bring; in the meantime, we trust that God has hold of the rest.

**Rev Rebecca Feeney, Curate-in-Charge of Chorley St Peter**

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