A lot of our church people are now busy with Christmas and family events and of course holidays, but I notice that the local and world news from newspapers and radio tells more and more of why we must take Climate Change seriously, whether we see the planet as part of God’s creation or something that has developed over a vast time span, or both. It is now in danger of being upset by things we have been doing. I notice that reporters are careful not to say that a particular discovery has proved this or that view. They just let us know what a particular scientist or politician or religion says or what is happening in this or that country.

Also it is interesting to see how when a leader like Xi Jinping decides on an environmental policy things happen immediately, whereas in a democracy decisions take time while parties argue the toss and there is the big problem of how we pay for things that we should be doing.

For myself I compare the voices of OT prophets and psalmists telling of punishments that happened when people did not listen to God with the greater emphasis on love and patience seen in the New Testament as we are urged to listen to the Holy Spirit. Yet terrible things are happening in many places now. Many have lost all in fires floods and earthquakes. Great numbers of people respond with generosity and care, while greater numbers either cannot help or do not see it has anything to do with them. What am to do when my neighbour drives past my EV in his shining vehicle with large exhaust pipes producing the loud noise he loves? I read the comment of a rabbi that Jesus cannot be the Messiah as he did not show vengeance on the wicked. I read the book called Revelation and try to understand what is meant by the destruction wreaked on the universe by various angels. One needs to accept the offer of salvation – a Latin word translated into Maori into words meaning “make alive” and be on the side of the “kaiwhakaora” – the one who makes alive.

Meanwhile from the scientific world one reads of a team using a telescope in space to observe distant galaxies who put the age of the universe at 13.7 billion years, the number of galaxies at 2 trillion, and stars a trillion trillion. God is running a big outfit and we are a tiny part of it learning from the experience of a chosen people, some young men and some caring women who followed Jesus, and women and men of many races guided by the Spirit ever since. Some of them have seen angels, all of them have known good and evil. Just now a season of present giving from ancient times, tree decorating from German pagan times, and red robed old men drawn by reindeer with wonderful names confuse the issue of what actually happened somewhere about 4 BC.

We have a lot to learn. Jesus is risen, alive and well. We are being shown what we can do about Climate Change. It is only by the grace of God that we shall be able to do it in time.

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