



## Grain

“In a real sense all life is inter-related. All are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be... This is the inter-related structure of reality.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Field

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”<sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Jn. 18:33-37

## Thoughts

Release Jesus or allow him to be killed? Pilate was up in the air. The two men were not officially connected, but Pilate perhaps glimpsed a deeper truth that indicated otherwise. Whatever the truth was, Pilate wasn't getting to the bottom of it with his questions about Jesus' kingship. He was intrigued and baffled by Jesus' presence, but in the end, stuck with his definition of who was and wasn't significant to him and the power of the Roman Empire. And yet that wasn't the end of the drama. Pilate's relationship to Jesus, not the empire, would be the story that endured.

As we approach Christ the Reign Sunday, we can envision layers of meaning related to Jesus' reign. We notice how Jesus spent time with people who were disenfranchised, not to be nice but because what society left out was still part of the whole. On the heels of an international climate conference, I think of how Christ's kingship points us to the interconnectedness of life. That's also what science teaches us. We cannot care for God's creation without local action and global cooperation.

It was hopeful that during the second week of COP26, China and the United States unexpectedly declared they would boost climate co-operation to mitigate climate change and achieve the 1.5 C temperature set by the 2015 Paris Agreement. Together, we are the world's two largest emitters of CO2. Scientists say that limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C will help humanity avoid the worst climate impacts. Regardless, there will be and are climate impacts. When some of the COP26 presenters discussed adaptation to those impacts, they mentioned that we are as strong as our weakest links. The ELCA and other faith leaders and NGOs advocated for addressing the needs people have right now. “Principles of justice warrant moving forward with items on the global climate agenda, such as mitigation and adaptation, but to achieve resilience we must also include addressing losses and damages as a matter of urgency. We are not too late, but the time is now,” wrote Ruth Ivory-Moore, ELCA Program Director for Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility

As we move forward acting locally, voting, and thinking globally, let us pray for a world that more deeply realizes our inescapable network of mutuality. May the reign of Christ guide our hearts. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy