

Reflection Wednesday 13th January

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

There are some things that we want to last forever and other things which we would like to stop immediately. I will not give the answer to the second part at this current time. In reality I am struggling to come up with an answer to the first part that is part of daily experience.

During the earthly ministry of Jesus there was the occasion on the Mount of Transfiguration where Peter wanted to build three booths that there would be no need to end an experience with Jesus, Moses and Elijah but that was not how Jesus wanted it to be and led the disciples back into the reality of daily living.

The author of the letter to the Hebrews spoke about things wearing out; even the earth and the heavens would wear out like clothing and all that will remain is the Lord, God is the eternal and glorious one.

In our daily living we have to face the reality of the transience of the things of this world yet there is one that has eternal qualities, our God. Our God, who in Jesus took on human form and showed the eternal quality of God, Love.

Love is that which abides forever.

When we love we are engaged with the eternal one, whether we realise it or not, for love has its source with God. To be part of something that will last forever is to be engaged with God in acts of love.

The question we need to ask in each situation is "What is the loving thing to do?" Yesterday, when listening to Professor Chris Whitty the message he shared in these days of rapid infection was "Ask if every encounter with another is essential," "Act as if you are infectious".

"What is the loving thing to do?" is the question we need to ask; what is God requiring of us not for our benefit and well-being but for others and the wider community. As we look at the life of Jesus he showed love and compassion to people in need around and about him but that did not mean he treated all people the same. Each situation was judged in the moment.

Love not just for the current moment but also for the eternal destiny of people.