

Deuteronomy 28:38-42
When the earth goes wrong

21 THE SEASONS, LORD, ARE IN YOUR HAND

1 The seasons, Lord, are in your hand;
and you have blessed our human race
with skills to measure, understand,
and track new worlds deep into space.

2 Yet how we foul what you made good!
the air we breathe, the fields we farm;
our rivers turn again to blood,
new plagues have come, new locusts swarm.

3 We grieve where forests once have grown,
the spreading desert, melting ice;
where little comes from what is sown
we lose all sense of paradise.

4 Have mercy on this earth, O Lord;
the changes we cannot control,
the healing we cannot afford,
the fractures we cannot make whole.

5 But show what difference we can make,
in travelling, trading with true care;
to learn to give before we take,
and spend in ways that all can share.

6 Lord Christ, the future leads to you;
'Your will be done', we learn to pray;
yours is the past, the present too;
give us the will to change today!

LM Tune: MELCOMBE

Scriptures: Gen 1:28. 2:8,15; 3:17-19, 23; 8:22 Exod 7:14-24; 10:1-15
Deut 28:38--42
Joel 1:1-12 Haggai 1:5-6 Matt 6:10 Acts 20:35

Written: Herne Hill, SE London, 18-19 Nov 2015

Concern for conservation and a greener earth need never be the enemy of evangelism, an alternative to it or a distraction from it. But even in places where it features in our prayers or our preaching, it seems to surface rarely, if at all, in our songs. So here is another small text helping to narrow a large gap.

Words: @Christopher Idle / Jubilate Hymns, copyrightmanager@jubilatehymns.co.uk.
USED BY PERMISSION