

Queensland Churches Environmental Network

SEASON OF
CREATION
CONTEMPLATIVE
WALK 2023

MT COOT-THA
BOTANICAL GARDENS

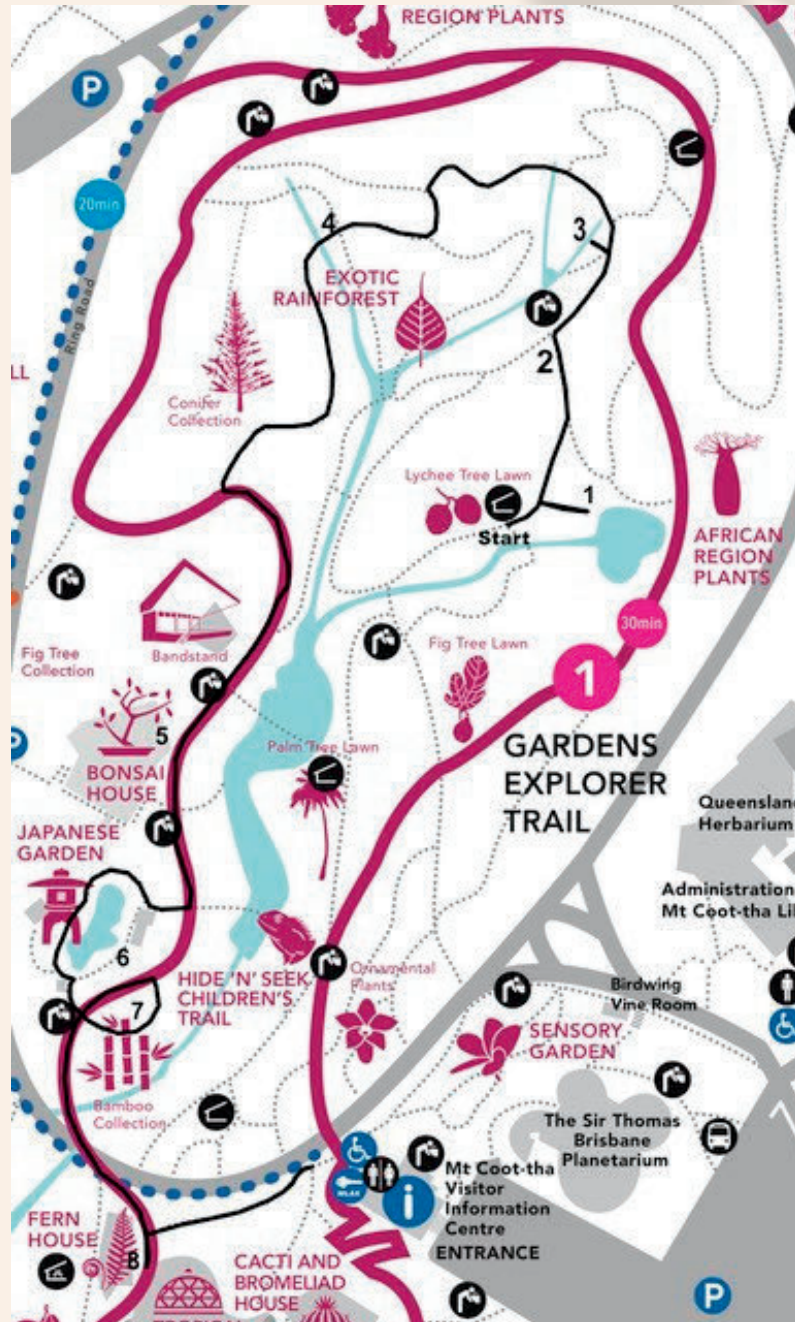
Taking the time to deeply
listen to our Creator.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 Table of Contents
- 02 Map
- 03 Stop 1 Black Rocks
- 04 Stop 2 Fig Tree
- 05 Stop 3 Small Waterfall
- 06 Stop 4 Larger Waterfall
- 07 Stop 5 Bonsais
- 08 Stop 6 Japanese Garden
- 09 Stop 7 Bamboo
- 10 Stop 8 Ferns

MAP



Follow the map from the Lychee Lawn.
Start at Stop 1 and follow to Stop 8.

STOP 1 BLACK ROCKS

Luke 19:37-40

37 When Jesus came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”[b]

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

We see the signs of sorrow and brokenness all around us in this world we live in. We see hunger in our own community, homelessness of those in our cities, the terror in the eyes of refugees fleeing oppression, the loneliness of those facing a life challenge without the comfort of friends. We see these things and wonder, what can we do, how can we turn the tide of sin and death that surrounds us each and every day? How can we sing the Lord’s Song in a time that overwhelms us? And we see the answer in the miracle of transformation of our Saviour riding into our hearts, uplifting our souls and bringing renewed energy for our beaten down spirits. We see the miracle of the everyday voice of kindness, the small contribution to a homeless shelter, the visit to the friend in the nursing home or hospital. And we join in the singing with those disciples so many years ago, celebrating with praise and loud voices the miracles that we see in the everyday. And with our shouts of praise the very stones of the earth sing out to a universe proclaiming His presence in our midst.

From: <https://www.reconcilingword.com/weekly-prayers/2019/4/13/meditationprayer-based-on-lectionary-reading-for-palm-sunday-luke-19-28-40>

The walk starts at the Lychee Tree Lawn. Take the path up the hill to the right of the pagoda. After a short distance, take the side path to the right that leads to a bench and our first stopping point, a view of some rocks, darkened by water.



Return to the path. You will come to a junction with a couple of benches. On your left you will see a fig tree



STOP 2 FIGS

Deut 8: 6-9

6 Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. 7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; 8 a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; 9 a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

Luther's Small Catechism explains The First Article Of the Apostle's Creed as follows

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property — along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.



STOP 3

SMALL WATERFALL

Take the path to the right. After a short distance you will come to a bench. Opposite the bench there is a small path to a lookout

John 4:7-14

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a]) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” 11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

PRAYER – Copyright © John van de Laar, from Sacredise.com

In the dry wildernesses of our lives,
in the days of heat and thirst,
you offer us living water,
Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When we begin to doubt your presence,
and grumble that your love is unreliable,
you offer us living water,
Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When life's regrets and the bad choices we
have made
leave us feeling excluded and unworthy,
you offer us living water,
Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When circumstances, or the inhumanity of
others,
have left us alone and wounded,
you offer us living water,
Thank you, gracious and generous God.

We thank you and praise you, O God,
that how ever we may thirst,
what ever we may need to satisfy our souls,
you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ;
So we drink deep of the living water
and, as we draw from your wells,
we seek to pass the cup to others
who, like us, are thirsty for your grace.
Amen



Return to the path and follow it around the top of the small waterfall.

Keep to the path until you come to a junction – Keep left.

After a short distance – you will come to a T junction. Turn right. Ahead of you, you will see a stone bridge and a bench. Just beyond the bench to your right is the next stop

STOP 4 LARGER WATERFALL

Amos 5:21-24 (NLT)

21 “I hate all your show and pretense—
the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and
solemn assemblies.

22 I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain
offerings.

I won’t even notice all your choice peace
offerings.

23 Away with your noisy hymns of praise!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

24 Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice,
an endless river of righteous living.



From Season of Creation celebration Guide 2023:
Prophet Amos cries out “But let justice roll on like
a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”
and so we are called to join the river of justice and
peace, to take up climate and ecological justice,
and to speak out with and for communities most
impacted by climate injustice and the loss of
biodiversity.

Our prayers, sermons and liturgies must call for
justice not only for humans but for all creation.
Justice, allied with peace, calls us to repent of our
ecological sins and to change our attitudes and
actions. Righteousness demands that we live in
peace, not conflict with our human neighbors, and
building right relationships with all of creation.
‘Peace’ (shalom) involves not only the absence of
conflict but positive, live-giving relationships with
God, ourselves, our human neighbors, and all
creation.

Keep going straight then take the next left along the path that goes behind the bandstand.

STOP 5 BONSAIS



Genesis 2: 4-9,15.

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth[a] and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, 6 but streams[b] came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. 7 Then the Lord God formed an earthling[c] from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the earthling became a living being.

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the earthling he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The Lord God took the earthling and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Prayer

God of creation and Lord of life, you entrusted us to care for our environment, but in many parts of the world we have failed. Help us to realise how fragile and unstable our surroundings are, because we are not looking after creation. We need to be true stewards and to understand how the most insignificant little flowers, and the tiniest insects, each creature and individual people are all part of a wondrous whole. Amen

Margaret Pickford 2018 Women's World Day of Prayer; Creation Care Prayers, Church of England.

STOP 6

JAPANESE GARDEN



Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely your goodness and love will follow
me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

The Affirmation of Faith

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we
do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
God made flesh,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the
world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome
death.
You are our God. We worship you.

From 2023 Season of Creation celebration Guide.

STOP 7 BAMBOO



Luke 12: 22-31

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life[b]? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you— you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that “less is more”. A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to much greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfilment. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures.

Clause 222. Laudato Si, Pope Francis

STOP 8 FERNS



Psalm 8:1-4

Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in
all the earth!

You have set your glory
in the heavens.

2 Through the praise of children
and infants

you have established a
stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the
avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,

which you have set in place,
4 what is humankind that you
are mindful of them,

human beings that you care
for them?[\[c\]](#)

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with the Lord's Prayer that
Jesus has taught us.

[Pray the traditional version of the Lord's
Prayer or the following version by Jim
Cotter adapted in the New Zealand Prayer
Book]:

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes
through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the
peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created
beings!

Your communion of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on Earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.

In times of temptation and test,
strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power
that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

From 2023 Season of Creation celebration
Guide.



Booklet produced by
Queensland Churches Environmental Network
A commission of Queensland Churches Together
email: admin@qct.org.au
<https://qct.org.au>

