



## Guiding Principles

*Christian hope is not about our escaping from the world... but about God's renewing it.* Rowan Williams, *Tokens of Trust*

*The world, indeed, shall not perish, but be changed; it will be transformed by fire, not destroyed.* Augustine, *The City of God*, Book XX, ch. 16

## Romans 8

- The Biblical story is one long movement toward the healing of God's good world.
- Creation's suffering is like labour pains, not the throes of death.
- God's ultimate healing is resurrection, not abandonment.
- The Holy Spirit is our inoculation against the virus. We still are confronted with it, but it can do our hearts no harm.
- We live between the inoculation and the eradication of the virus; in-between Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of the world.

## The 5 Foundational Stories of our Faith

### Part 6: God Will Fully Heal this Good World (Romans 8)

**Gathering.** Open with this prayer or [sing along to it here](#),

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

**Listening.** Watch or listen to the teaching.

**Wondering.** Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- I wonder what of the foundational stories you like best.
- I wonder where you see creation groaning for its healing.
- I wonder how God has given us a glimpse of the world's future in Jesus' resurrection.
- I wonder how the Spirit of God inoculates us from the sin-virus.
- I wonder what gives you hope.

**Sharing.** Choose a question to share with the group or journal.

**Praying.** Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

**Commissioning.** Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week, I want to look for those "labour-ers" working to make the world anew.
- This week, I want to pray especially for God's Spirit to help me become resistant to the violence and apathy infecting the world.
- This week I want to spread a little hope around.

