

Genesis 2:4-9

More trees, or fewer? A conservation hymn

7. WHEN GOD MADE ALL THINGS WELL

1 When God made all things well
and trees adorned the earth,
how few at first could tell
their beauty or their worth;
 but cedar, pine
 and olive wood
 are still a sign
 of all that's good.

2 When forests are cut down
and greed become our goal,
where green is turned to brown
and deserts take control;
 what evils come,
 and harm untold to
 this our home,
 our precious world.

3 Our sinful heart rebels
against the laws you give;
God save us from ourselves,
that we repent and live.
 May humankind
 give earth its due
 till woodlands find
 their life made new.

4 Before new poisons reign
or earth and waters choke,
let us with zeal regain
the palm, the beech, the oak;
 here as in heaven
 your will be done,
 and thanks be given
 to you alone.

6666 4444 Tune: ST JOHN

Scriptures: Gen 1:11-12; 2:8-9 Isa 2:12-17 Zech 11:2 Matt 6:10 Lam 8:18-21
Written: Herne Hill, SE London, 1-3 Dec 2015.

See also the notes to No.4: the way we treat our trees now has huge significance for humanity and planet earth.

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