



We Mercies

## Care for Creation

*As we take the first step, let us remember the traditional custodians of the land*

### THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

The film, *This changes everything*, has been making the rounds. It is based on the book by Naomi Klein with the same title. The book is a large tome, the result of much research into the current environmental crisis and much creative thinking on a very, very broad scale. Its subtitle is *Capitalism v. the Climate*. If you read just one book about climate change et al - apart from Pope Francis' encyclical; *Laudato Si'* - this should well be it.

Basically, the book is a clarion call for us to change our current `consumer lifestyle. Our economics is based on competitive market growth. Unending progress is the order of the day. One small example. In the area around Michelton, Enoggera, Everton Park and Alderley, there are already nearby at least five if not more easily reachable shopping centres and yet there has recently been established another large one by Woolworths and the low key one at Alderley is being demolished in favour of a more upmarket version. The small corner shops, independent grocers, bakers, greengrocers and the like have little or no hope.

Naomi strips it down to a question of values.

To quote one reviewer: *This politically charged book reads like a great dramatic novel. On one side are the powerful free-market fundamentalists. They are the rich and powerful of the world committed to wealth, consumerism and materialism, the articulate voices for profit-driven growth. Their actions rape the earth and exploit the poor. .... On the other side are the little people with values outside the dominant capitalist culture. They are often indigenous and they value interconnectedness, community, cooperation and relationships with nature and each other. They ...seek to live simply.* (Kevin Peoples, *EarthSong* vol.3, issue 2)

Naomi blames capitalism for our crisis of climate change. Green technical solutions within the current structure of unlimited market growth will not suffice to save us. The debate about climate change needs to be placed in the much more fundamental context of a holistic lifestyle and a society where each person is as valued as the rest, a society that is truly caring and compassionate, based on cooperation not competition.

Naomi Klein:  
*This Changes  
Everything  
Capitalism vs  
The Climate*  
(Penguin)

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Ed. Anne McLay

“I believe that the more clearly we focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction”. Rachel Carson, 1954.

“We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values, We must rapidly begin the shift from a ‘thing-oriented society’ to a ‘person-oriented society’. Martin Luther King Jr. 1967.

“Developed countries have created a global crisis based on a flawed system of values. There is no reason we should be forced to accept a solution informed by that same system”. Marlene Moses, Ambassador to the U.N. for Nauru, 2009.

Even as the United States government continues to push for the use of more chemically-intensive and corporate-dominated farming methods such as GMOs and monoculture-based crops, the United Nations is once again sounding the alarm about the urgent need to return to (and develop) a more sustainable, natural and organic system.

