



Scouts Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Abbey

Friday 20th February 2026

Secular Reading

JUST IMAGINE A DIFFERENT WORLD

'Imagine you are holding a miniature version of the planet earth in the palm of your hand. You can see what is happening to it; clouds of pollution rising from the cities, the green forests shrinking, the 'concrete jungles' expanding, the deserts creeping over fertile land, millions of refugees escaping from war and famine and the mournful cry of whales so near extinction that they cannot find a mate.

'Now, think that if the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating just above a field somewhere, people would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it and they would wonder at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it with water suspended in the gas. The people stare at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and the creatures in the water.

'The people would declare it as very special because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known and people would come to it to gain knowledge, to be healed, to know beauty and to ponder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.'

Author unknown. From **Enviroteach 1**, 1992, reproduced in The Global Scout by Frank Opie.