

AND THEN THERE WAS HOPE



The morning was spent discussing human rights and the rights of Mother Earth - while I think much of rights discourse is misplaced, it is a good attempt to give a legal framework to enable the defenders of the environment a chance to deal with the big Corporations on an even playing field. Indeed, Ecuador has incorporated the rights of the environment in its constitution. I was able to contribute with the story of the women of Guadalcanal who took the loggers to court – and succeeded!

In the evening myself and Nigel went to Notre Dame Cathedral for an Ecumenical Service in Celebration of Creation, organised by the Ecumenical Council of Christian Churches in France. Today's photograph shows me two hours before the service. It was well attended, both by clergy (Two Cardinals, at least four Anglican bishops, and the Orthodox Metropolitan preaching), and by laity. I had the honour of being included in the clergy procession, and was seated near the pulpit for an excellent view of proceedings. There was a real sense of the transcendent, and the blessing of creation as God's gift to us to use for the benefit of all, especially those yet to come.

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