

"Creation as Blessing"

July 14, 2019 ~ Pentecost 5C ~ Sacred Earth, Sacred Work

Rev. Rebekah Sweet

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1 - 2:4 as brought to life by the Celebration Players.

"Creation As Blessing"

Prayer: *Creator God, you continue to make order of the world,
To enter the chaos of our existence and to remind us
That all you have made is indeed "very good."
May we remember your call to be agents of goodness and blessing,
Of your creative power, and of your restorative presence.
May we remember your call for us to go into the world
and through our loving lives, compel others to follow
In the way of Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

Worship: to worship is to heighten and expand our attention to God, to others, and to the world around us. We open all our senses in a special way -- seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting the Divine in all things, in every time and place. And you know, sometimes we become better attuned to the blessings in our lives when we seek them out in new and different ways.

SO, to begin our message this morning, I am going to ask you to move out of your norm of being a listening spectator during this portion of the service, and consider something you have brought to our worship. ***Please think for a moment about a time when you have observed / sensed something magnificent in God's creation (something great or small).*** When you have come up with just one observation, I invite you to share that observation ***briefly*** with just one or two persons seated close to you. When you hear the chime, bring your attention back here. Now, GO!

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I will tell you about one magnificent blessing I observed this week. Since we were having VBS this week, and Jessica was offering leadership every day, I have the opportunity most days to have a little one on one time with Gideon. By the end of the week, every time I saw Gideon my vision was drawn to those precious little baby toes!! When I consider how God fashions each person, each little life, each tiny toe on that little one, I am filled with awe....and AWWW!

For many decades, and in some cultures, when one spoke of creation, the emphasis in the creation of humanity was on ORIGINAL SIN! Today, however, and throughout this summer worship series, I propose that we discuss CREATION as BLESSING! That shifts our perspective to God's intention to create all that fills the universe to be "good, so very good!"

M.C. Richards, poet and potter, has composed "A New Creation Story." It draws on the imagery of the Genesis creation story, and the beginning of the Gospel of John. Due to its length, I will share just a portion of this poem for your delight.

*In the beginning was the gift.
And the gift was with God and the gift was God.
And the gift came and set its tent among us....
The gift birthed galaxies -- spinning, whirling, alive galaxies
Created of trillions of stars, lights in the heavens and cosmic furnaces
That made more gifts...
Gifts upon gifts, gifts birthing gifts, gifts exploding,
Gifts imploding, gifts of light, gifts of darkness.
Cosmic gifts and subatomic gifts.
All drifting and swirling, being born and dying,
In some vast secret of a plan.
Which was also a gift.
One of these supernova gifts exploded in a special manner
Sending a unique gift to the universe,

Which later-coming creatures would one day call earth,*

Their home! ...

Now gifts arose, never seen in such forms in the universe--

Rocks, oceans, continents,

Multicellular creatures that moved by their own inner power.

Life was born!!

Life--a new gift of the universe, a new gift in the universe.

Flowers of multiple color and scent, trees standing upright.

Forests arose offering places for all manner of creeping, crawling things.

Of things that fly and sing; of things that swim and slither,

Of things that run on four legs.

And, eventually, of things that stand and walk on two.

With thumbs that move to make still more creativity--

More gift making -- possible.

The human became a gift, but also a menace.

For its powers of creativity were unique

in their potential for destruction or healing.

How would humans use these gifts?

Which direction would they choose?

The earth waited for an answer to these questions.

And is still waiting. Trembling.

Teachers were sent, divine incarnations birthed from the soil.....

To teach the humans ways of compassion

And still the earth waited to see if humanity was gift or curse....

I firmly believe that God created the universe, and all life within it, to be blessing, to exude goodness, to flourish -- and that includes us! This doesn't prevent hardship and difficulties, but it does strengthen us as we go through tough times. It allows us to deepen our faith and spirituality without FEAR, or at least with less FEAR. Life in all its joys and struggles is a blessing--which means, it is something worth sharing.

But the human family has fallen short of living into that blessing over and over again. As we have failed to honor God's creation as blessing, we

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have harmed our relationship with our Creator. As the poem reminds us, God sent us teachers over and over again. And God sent Jesus, the Christ, to show us the life God intends for us to live.

As we share this, I can hear the voice of Louis Armstrong singing:

What a Wonderful World

[Louis Daniel Armstrong](#)

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do
They're really saying I love you

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll never know
And I think to myself what a wonderful world
Yes I think to myself what a wonderful world. Oh, yah!

Songwriters: George Weiss / Robert Thiele