

Creation is Our Story

Bishop Jane Alexander

*Ash Wednesday to Saturday
Thursday March 3*

Scripture

Psalm 8:1,3-4

O LORD our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! ...
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Reflection

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” Those verses are a psalmist, David in fact, saying “WOW.” You can imagine this man writing something to express how he felt about the greatness of God as seen in the beauty around him. In other words, this psalm as well as many others, shows us that creation is busy glorifying God even if we might be too preoccupied to notice. Then one day David looks up and says “WOW”.

Somewhere in the many boxes of children’s stuff in our house are each of our four children’s first paintings. They are beautiful, to my eyes, but probably would look like big blobs to most other people with no apparent worth or beauty. It’s all about how you look at things. Sometimes we take things for granted. I have recently started feeding the birds in our back garden and spending time watching them. I notice now their colours, the texture of their wings, their behaviours. They were always there before but I never really looked closely. In December 2020 the great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn had us all looking up at the stars and perhaps seeing them as if for the first time.

Perhaps this week you could talk with a friend or with your family about the beauty that is all around us if only we would pay attention. If you can’t get outside, look at old photos, pull up scenes from your memories even fire up Louis Armstrong singing “What a Wonderful World.” See if you can recapture that gift of joy and wonder in all God’s works that we pray for at baptism.

We know that we do not live in a perfect world, but one with the potential for perfection. We know that we do not share this planet with perfect people, because we ourselves are not perfect, but since all of us are made in God’s image we have incredible potential. Let us pray that tomorrow when we wake up we might look out on this world with a child’s eyes of wonder, with the eyes of the writer of our psalm. - Then, go and find a ‘thin place,’ places which in Celtic spirituality are touching places between earth and heaven.

A Reading attributed to Meister Eckhart

Apprehend God in all things,
for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God,
and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature — even a caterpillar
I would never have to prepare a sermon,
so full of God is every creature.

Prayer

There is no plant in the ground but tells of your beauty, O Christ.
There is no life in the sea but proclaims your goodness.
There is no bird on the wing,
there is no star in the sky,
there is nothing beneath the sun but is full of your blessing.
Lighten my understanding of your presence all around, O Christ.
Kindle my will to be caring for Creation.
Phillip Newell

For the love of creation

For the love of Creation builds on a long history of engagement by Canadian churches and faith-based organizations in ecological conservation, environmental activism, and advocacy for climate justice. Indigenous Peoples have long reminded us of the interconnectedness of all creation. Faith organizations understand the importance of respecting this interconnectedness as we speak to this moment through our values and collective action. Faith organizations are also attuned to the young voices in our midst who are leading the way in showing the urgency of the climate situation. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically impacted people, amplifying economic, political, cultural, and social fissures and shown how government and societies can change quickly when convinced of the need. For the Love of Creation is an active and growing voice for collective and immediate action.

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-among-faith-groups-launching-climate-conversation-initiative/>