

Awe and Wonder

I'm aware that I shared this video with you not that long ago, but many of you missed it and it is the most perfect way I could think of to begin our year long journey together. So, sit back and try to take in the miracle of what you see.

Video

One of the names we have for God is "Creator." Because essentially, that's what God does - creates. And notice I don't use the past tense of "to create." God did create, God is creating, and God will create until the end of all time. Because that is the nature of God - to create. God is the first artist. Creation is God expressing God's self. Everything, everywhere is always in the process of being created and everything, everywhere is always holy, spiritual, valuable, and meaningful. All of it. From the cockroach to the Milky Way. It's all sacred and the universe and the universes beyond the universes and on and on and on is God's work of art.

This is where we begin walking the road. We begin by remembering that God is central to EVERYTHING! Which means we remember that God is central to our own lives, in absolutely everything we see, do, hear, feel, everything.... God is smack in the middle of it all. We remember that in the beginning, God sets the tone for how we are to understand Him?

And how do we understand Him? We can start by reflecting on what it is that takes our breath away. We can start by considering the things that make us feel most alive. For me, it's standing on the edge of the Oregon coast, and the hummingbird that flies up to my face just a foot away and hovers before my eyes while looking into my soul. That takes my breath away.

I asked others on Facebook what makes them feel most alive and the answers included gathering with family, creating, learning, and laughing. All these things make us feel alive because within all of these things, we connect ourselves to something other than ourselves. The best thing about Genesis is not human beings. The best thing about all of creation is that God created us in a way that weaves us all into one perfect tapestry with every other created thing in the universe. It's not simply that light is Good or sky is Good or water is Good or plants are Good or even humans are Good. What's GOOD is that all of these things are connected and in harmony with each other. What's good is that in the many is ONE.

I find myself connected to more than my own sorry self when the hummingbird pierces my soul with her stare. We are connected in harmony to creation when we gather with loved ones. We are connected to the harmony of creation when we create ourselves which is an expression of our selves seeking to connect with how others express themselves. We connect to the harmony of creation when we learn, for then we expand our world-view which connects us to understanding how other's view the world. And of course there is laughing, laughing may be God's most perfect cherry on His undeniably perfect Banana split.

God has been working on this creation we call earth for 14.5 billion years. As far as we know, God has been working on this universe (I don't know about all the others) but He's been working on the universe that we are a part of for **1.4 x 10 to the 10 Julian years**. I have no idea what that means, but it's what Siri told me so it must be true.

There are two things that speak to me when reflecting on these two passages we've heard today. From Genesis we get the sense that God's creation is so enormous that there is no possible way we can even begin to fathom the breath of it all. And that makes me feel soooooo small.

AND in Matthew's passage, God cares for all by creating, sustaining, ordering, preserving, providing and loving each element of creation, like the lilies in the field or the birds and grass. And if God provides for these seemingly small irrelevant elements of creation, why would we even begin to fathom that we are not taken care of with immense love and perfect attention. We're told not to worry. We're told God will take care of us. Even me. And that makes me feel sooooo important.

In Creation I'm reminded of the paradox that I am insignificant and significant at the same time. That sounds like a miracle to me. First that we even exist at all AND THEN that we get to be an active part in God's creation. We are created to be God's co-creators, continuing the process from generation to generation. And the best way we can participate in creating the sacred is to live our lives in the ways that make us feel MOST ALIVE.

Because you see, all of God's creation, all of it, the whole shebang is God's temple. And instead of having idols, or statues, or even crosses symbolizing God within the temple, She places us. Human Beings are placed inside God's temple to represent Her. We are created in God's image. We are created to be a true expression of God's being. And we best express God's being by doing that which makes us MOST ALIVE!

And so we begin. We begin our journey today by remembering who we are and whose we are. We begin our walk by recognizing that God is first, God is central to everything. We begin this year with one another with the attitude of AWE and WONDER. May we remember that attitude every morning after we open our eyes and before we slip on our slippers and take our first step of the day.

Next week, we will reflect on chapter 2 of "We Make the Road by Walking" and consider the second Creation tale of Genesis where we will try to understand what it is to be a Human Being. But for now, let us express our thanks for all God creates by standing in body or spirit as you are able and sing,