

SEASON OF CREATION: WEEK 4



The Burning Bush Ex 3:1-12

*"I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...
Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you"
(Ex 3: 1-12)*

Listen to the Voice of Creation

During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

Listening to the voice of creation offers members of the Christian family a rich entry point for interfaith and interdisciplinary dialogue and practice. Christians walk a shared path as those who hold different kinds of knowledge and wisdom in all cultures and sectors of life. By listening to the voice of all creation, humans joined in our vocation to care for our common home (*oikos*).

Listen to the Voice of Creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Turning Aside to See

(Ex 3: 1-22)

We gather, eyes wide open to wonder.
As Moses turned aside to see
the bush ablaze with eternal Presence,
so in our sacred gatherings,
do we turn aside to see the world
charged with the grandeur and the glory
of indescribable Mystery.

We turn aside to see
the beauty of each other,
the goodness of this life,
and the truth of sacred wisdom that knows:
Earth to be holy;
all creatures to be kin;
the universe to be One;
and Spirit to be a flaring presence,
for all who turn aside to see. Amen.

Bruce Sanguin *If Darwin Prayed*

Laudato Si #240

The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things, so that throughout the universe we can find any number of constant and secretly interwoven relationships.[171] This leads us not only to marvel at the manifold connections existing among creatures, but also to discover a key to our own fulfilment.





Carina NGC 3324 (NIRCam Image) | IMAGE: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI

The Universe

Rev Kath Merrifield, Uniting Church Minister, Kiama, Member of ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change)

In ancient times, the psalmists gazed at the night sky and wondered:

- ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? (Psalm 8:3-4)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

For the people of biblical times, the heavens were a mystery that pointed them to the wonder of God. And, now, with the benefit of science, we are able to see so much more clearly how tiny we are in the scheme of the cosmos (have a look at the images coming from the James Webb Telescope: <https://www.nasa.gov/content/first-images-from-the-james-webb-space-telescope>).

And yet, in one of the most well-known bible verses, we read:

- ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17)

In these verses, the Greek word translated as “world” is *κόσμον* (*cosmon*) from which we get *cosmos*: God so loved the *cosmos* that he gave his only Son...in order that the *cosmos* might be saved through him.

God, the creator of all that we can see and so much more that we are yet to comprehend, loves beyond the reaches of our eyes and minds to the full extent of all that is – wow!

How incredible is it to think of the Creator of the Universe, coming amongst us, experiencing our life and our death in order to restore us to wholeness of life embraced in the love of our Creator?!

- Take some time this week, to look up.
- Look into the sky by day and to the stars by night.
- Wonder at the Creator who breathed it all into being.
- Give thanks to the One who came amongst us to show us what Love is.
- Breathe in time with the Spirit as she moves around and among.

God, you have made us of stardust and spirit.
Etching your image on ev'ry cell.
We are your love-song, your poem and rhythm.
All co-creators, your story to tell.

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What does it mean for us to be “co-creators”, people who shape and form ourselves and our communities in the image of God’s love for the cosmos?

Watch and Pray

Laudato Si Prayer Book

Merciful God and Creator of all,
We praise You for the gift of the earth,
Home to so many forms of life
the common home of peoples, cultures, and species.
We have made it an unjust place where some consume
and pollute more than others, and the poorest
face the greatest impacts of climate change.
Therefore, we ask You to help us achieve climate and ecological justice
so that no one takes for themselves what belongs to all,
that we may share the world’s goods equitably, and live simply
so that we may bear witness that the earth is sister and mother of all.
Help us to respect its rhythms or regeneration, so that it may sustain all
Living beings both in the present and for future generations. Amen.