

Sunday, March 22, 2020

## *A Lenten Reflection - "Broken Creation"*

*"Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God."*

*Dr. Robert Pierce*

We light a candle:

We light a candle  
in the name of the God who creates life,  
in the name of the Saviour who loves life,  
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.

*Celtic Treasure, by Philip Newell*

Gathering Prayer and Confession:

P: O God,  
Your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

C: **Open our eyes to see.**

P: O God,  
Your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

C: **Open our eyes to see.**

P: O God,  
Your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

C: **Open our eyes to see.**

P: O God,  
Your creatures are slowly dying  
and your people are suffering,

C: **Open our eyes to see.**

P: God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

C: **that we learn to cherish and protect your world. Amen**

A reading from Judaism:

*And God saw everything that he had made, and found it very good.*

*And God said: This is a beautiful world that I have given you. Take good care of it; do not ruin it.*

*It is said that before the world was created, the Holy One kept creating worlds and destroying them. Finally, God created this one, and was satisfied. God said to Adam: This is the last world I shall make. I place it in your hands: hold it in trust!*

**Reflection:**

We have heard in the last few days that the smog has lifted in China and the air is cleaner. The sky is once again blue. We have heard that the canal water in Venice is clear and fish can be seen swimming in it. How quickly Mother Nature wants to heal herself from our abuse and mistreatment. We have been given a rare and beautiful opportunity to take stock and reflect on how we might live differently once our global pandemic recedes. How might we live differently in the months and years to come? We now have the attention of the global community and we have seen the difference it makes when human beings draw back. Might we perhaps still bring healing to this earth and wholeness to its creatures before it is too late? I invite you into reflection and prayer to see where God might be leading you.

Remember ... “repentance” means to turn our hearts around ... to turn our lives around and to live differently. God has placed the world in our hands and invited us to hold it in trust!

**Prayer:**

God of life and love, we give you thanks for the many blessings that we receive from you daily. None is as great as the beauty that surrounds us! Guide us to protect and cherish that which you have given us. Empower us with a willingness to heal that which we have damaged. Protect the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the animals that are a source of joy and also our nourishment. May the beauty of the earth that changes with the seasons always move our hearts with awe and amazement! Amen

**Blessing:**

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May the Lord's face shine upon us with grace and compassion.

May the Lord continue to look upon us with love,  
and give us deep and lasting peace.

Amen