

Sunday 2nd June 2024

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God is love, let us adore God by sharing God's love.

God is ever present, around us and within us, we worship together in God.

Reading [Deuteronomy 5:6-21 \(CEV\)](#)

Reflection 1

Some years ago Greenpeace produced an article which aimed to highlight the effect humanity had on the Earth by condensing the time scale to 46 years.

Planet Earth is 4,600 Million Years Old

If we condense this inconceivable time-span into an understandable concept, we can liken Earth to a person of 46 years of age.

Nothing is known about the first 7 years of this person's life, and whilst only scattered information exists about the middle span, we know that only at the age of 42 did the Earth begin to flower.

Dinosaurs and the great reptiles did not appear until one year ago, when the planet was 45. Mammals arrived only 8 months ago; in the middle of last week man-like apes evolved into ape-like men, and at the weekend the last ice age enveloped the Earth.

Modern man has been around for 4 hours.

During the last hour man discovered agriculture. The industrial revolution began a minute ago.

During those sixty seconds of biological time, modern man has made a rubbish tip of Paradise.

He has multiplied his numbers to plague proportions, caused the extinction of 500 species of animals, ransacked the planet for fuels and now stands like a brutish infant, gloating over this meteoric rise to ascendancy, on the brink of a war to end all wars and of - effectively destroying this oasis of life in the solar system.

Greenpeace

Now reflect on this piece about The Earth from an unknown source.

The Earth

If the earth were only a few feet in diameter,
floating a few feet above a field somewhere,
people would come from everywhere to marvel at it.

People would walk around it,
marvelling at its big pools of water,
its little pools
and the water flowing between the pools.
People would marvel at the bumps on it,
and the holes in it,
and they would marvel
at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it,
and the water suspended in the gas.
The people would marvel at the creatures
walking around the surface of the ball,
and at the creatures in the water.

The people would declare that it was sacred
because it was the only one,

and they would protect it so it would not be hurt.
The ball would be the greatest wonder known,
and people would come to behold it,
to be healed,
to gain knowledge,
to know beauty
and to wonder how it could be.

People would come to love it,
and defend it with their lives,
because they would know somehow that their lives,
their own roundness,
could be nothing without it.

If the earth were only a few feet in diameter.

There is a crisis of human making and we have a part to play in healing the world. Deuteronomy's version of the Words of wisdom given to Moses was a reminder to the people to think about how they lived. When we look at the world today we can see the outcomes of not living as community, not living as one with creation, and it saddens us.

The pandemic brought out more of the best in humanity as shared suffering united us and we were urged to look out for one another and to appreciate those who were helping us. However four years on we are suffering community memory loss and the old ego driven world is back in place.

Reflection 2

Chief Seattle, a native American Chief wrote a wonderful testament on the interconnectedness of creation, here is a small section –

*We are part of the earth and it is part of us.
The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer;
The horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers.
The rocky crests, the juices in the meadow, the body heat
Of the pony and man - all belong to the same family.
This we know. The earth. does not belong to man; man belongs
To the earth . This we know. All things are connected like
The blood which unites one family. All things are connected.
whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth.
Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it.
Whatever he does to the web he does to himself.*
(from Chief Seathl's Testament)

Native peoples still recognise a connectedness that the most of the world had forgotten. This connectedness is sometimes referred to as the knowing. A bald headed eagle knows when to mate so that chicks arrive at the same time as the homecoming salmon. A salmon which has spent four years in an ocean knows how to find its native river and the exact point of its birth. The cells in an unborn child know exactly what their purpose is in forming the child.

We know, we simply have to remember we know and rekindle the connection.

Reading The Knowing (Psalms for a quantum world)

I am part of all creation,
my words, my actions, my thoughts,
my hopes and dreams
are shared with all that is.

This knowledge is beyond my imagination, for now,
but I am called to share its knowing,
to be a conscious part of all that is.

There is no hiding in the knowing
for we are all one.
There is no escaping,
except through denial and rejection -
the creation of my own reality apart from oneness.

Creation has formed me.
The atoms that give me form are a part of all that is,
all that has been and all that will be.
I share them with everything and everyone
within this world and beyond.
I am wonderfully and fearfully made
as is everyone and everything
in the sphere of creative energy.
We are what has always been
the source of all being
the past, present and future,
a reality beyond our humble imagination
yet we are called into this other reality,
into the knowing.

The knowing calls everyone
but some are afraid,
fearing that which they see as unknown,
when there is nothing unknown in oneness.
This fear opposes the love that is oneness,
this fear creates divisions and hurt and anger,
but love can drive out fear
and in the oneness, the knowing,
there is only love.
A different way of living,
a different way of seeing,
a different way of being,
we are known,
and we are called into oneness.
To be is to be one.

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Poem The holiness of life
 At the start of time,
 when the universe began,
 there was all knowledge
 contained in a seed the size of a pea.

 In an instant,
 as time began,
 the seed exploded into life,
 each atom beginning a journey
 of billions of years
 and billions of miles;
 each atom becoming the seed of life,
 the seed of knowing.

Everything I know was in that seed
waiting to be discovered,
waiting to be uncovered,
waiting,
for when the time was right;
and who knew when the time was right,
I did,
I knew,
for I know everything
for I am life, creation,
I am of God,
the seed,
the source,
I am.

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Reflection

In her children's book 'That's Why', Babette Cole explores the question why are we here and what is our purpose. Explaining the interconnectedness of our lives and how we all need each other, the story challenges us to appreciate others and share our skills for the benefit of others. Quantum science is revealing more about the connectedness of creation and our interdependence on each other. There is an African word 'Ubuntu' which roughly means I am who I am through my relationships with others, or as John Donne put it 'no man is an island'.

Brian McLaren in his latest book invites us to take a reality check and suggests that unless we face the reality of our existence, the things we know and the things we don't know, all of which play a part in how we live then we cannot move forward.

The reality is we use too many of the Earth's resources for them to naturally replenish, we are in deficit. At the same time we are pumping out too much waste for the Earth to naturally detoxify, we are in deficit. Economic systems have become too dependant on continual economic growth so that without continual growth financial systems will collapse but with continual economic growth we endanger the ecological balance of creation.

It is not overstating things to say we are facing an apocalypse and scientific papers are continually warning of this and yet they make little difference. Fear is not the answer, love is the answer, we have to encourage one another to value and love the Earth, we have to copy the native peoples in their love and connection to creation.

When hope is based upon outcomes, if we cannot see a way to that outcome hope is replaced by despair and that is where many people are in terms of climate change, they are losing hope. True hope, however, comes from a commitment to love, love may or may not provide a solution but it will always provide a way forward. Love enables us to persevere long enough that a new way appears, maybe a completely different outcome from the one we were expecting. Our hope is based on being good people, we will live as beautifully, as bravely and as kindly as we can for as long as we can no matter how ugly, scary or mean the world becomes. We will be seeds of hope-filled love.

Each of us stands in a unique place because even though we stand in the same place we have reached that place from a different path, the path of our experience. We gather from different places, with different needs and with different skills and we need one another to make a difference.

We are here for a purpose, we have hindsight (experience), insight (wisdom and knowledge), and foresight (a vision of the Kingdom). We need to learn to live as healers

and transformers, seeing a need and lovingly doing what we can. Reality is a mixed bag but we have an incredible power within us, we have love.

[Read Brian McLaren's dream'](#)

[Read about the synergy of love](#)

We are a part of creation and everything we do affects other people and creation. As people following the way of Jesus we know about the importance of love, and how it can transform lives. We are called to live lovingly and it will make a difference. We may not see the difference but we can know it happens and persevere to bring the Kingdom closer. We can also love creation and through small changes we will make a difference, and our actions will be a message of love for the Earth.