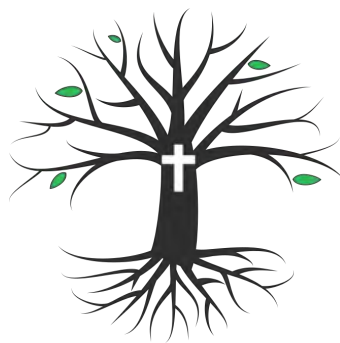


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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

February 22, 2023



Tucson desert. Photo: Robert A. Jonas

I have been thirsty for silence... [I]n the silence, on the edge of wildness, I wonder what my work might be now... in these crisis times. What might God say to me if I can be quiet enough to listen? What did God mean a few months ago when I heard in the Scriptures, in my prayers, “I am making all things new?” (Rev. 21:5). How shall I look for new life when everything seems chaotic, churning with sorrows both ancient and fresh?

- Debra Rienstra, *Refugia Faith*



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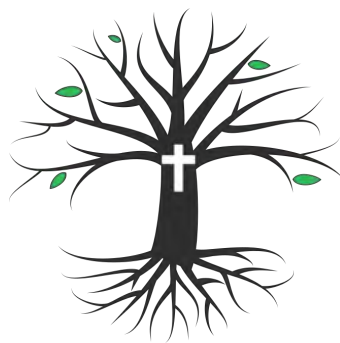
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

February 23, 2023



Photo: Christine Labich Jonas

The purpose of Lent has always been to startle us awake to the true state of our hearts and the world we've made. Which wakes an aching, wild hope that something new might be born of the ruin... The Resurrection promises that a new future will be given to us when we beg to be stripped of the lie of separation, when the hard husk suffocating our hearts breaks open and, like children again, we feel the suffering of any creature as our own. That this can happen is the wild, not impossible hope of all creation.

- Gayle Boss, *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*

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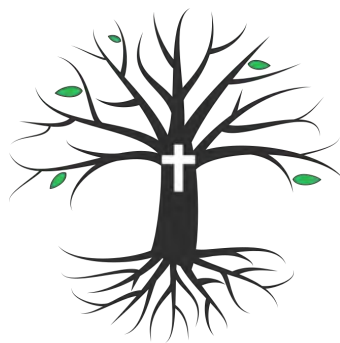
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

February 24, 2023



Kīlauea (the home of Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess). Photo: Christine Labich Jonas

May God light in us a holy fire: Light a fire that is worthy of our ancestors. Light a fire that is worthy of our children. Light a fire that is worthy of our fathers. Light a fire that is worthy of our mothers. Light a fire that is worthy of God. Now let us go in peace, lighting a holy fire wherever we go.

-Anne Rowthorn, inspired by an anonymous Masai prayer

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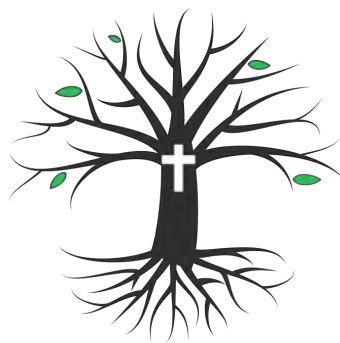
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

February 25, 2023

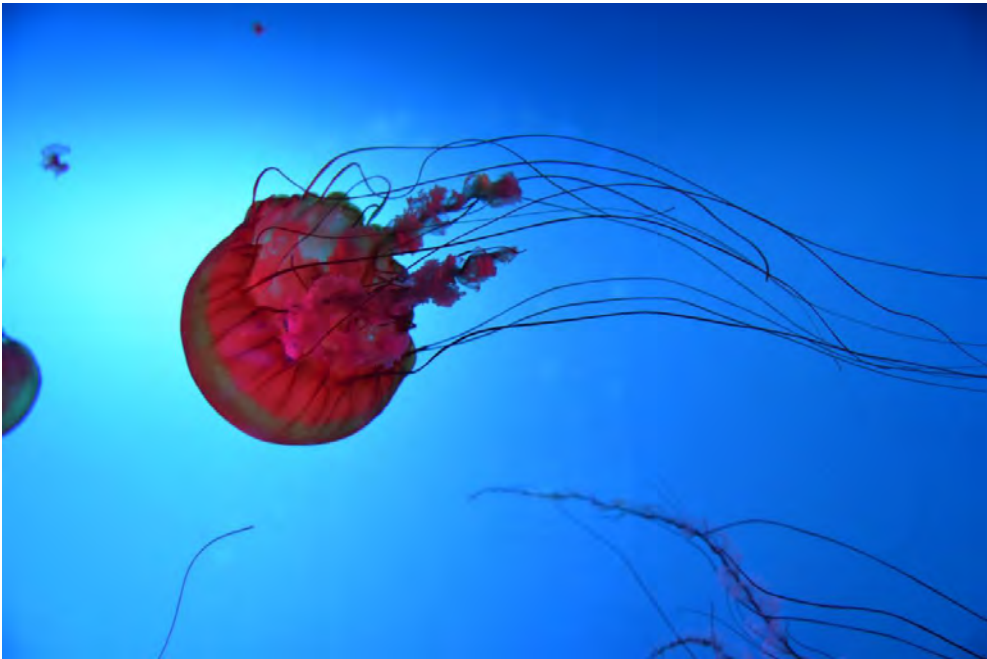


Photo: Jason Blais

The creator goes off on one wild, specific tangent after another, or millions simultaneously, with an exuberance that would seem to be unwarranted, and with an abandoned energy sprung from an unfathomable font.

What is going on here? The point of the dragonfly's terrible lip, the giant water bug, birdsong, or the beautiful dazzle and flash of sunlighted minnows, is not that it all fits together like clockwork – for it doesn't, particularly, not even inside the goldfish bowl – but that it all flows so freely wild, like the creek, that it all surges in such a free fringed tangle.

Freedom is the world's water and weather, the world's nourishment freely given, its soil and sap: and the creator loves pizzazz.

- Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*

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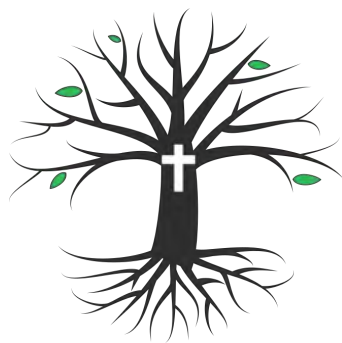
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

February 27, 2023



Photo: Dollarphotoclub, 67291851

You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you can't have disposable people without racism... Just as the settlers had to believe and tell stories to dehumanize the people they killed, plundered, and terrorized, today's systems of extraction can only work by dehumanizing people.

- Hop Hopkins, Director of Organizational Transformation for the Sierra Club

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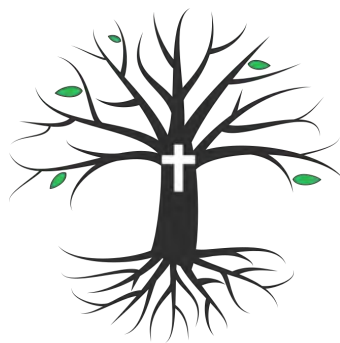
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

February 28, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

[Lent] means to rouse us from our self-absorption. Absorbed instead in the beauty of other creatures, we see how they value their lives, lives woven together across species in beautifully complex webs... Once alive to the exquisite web holding all creatures, we also see the holes slashed through it. By us. We're enraptured by the animals' beauty, and we're horrified by the suffering we inflict on that beauty. With Saint Paul we can hear all creation groaning (Romans 8:22), including ourselves.

- Gayle Boss, *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*

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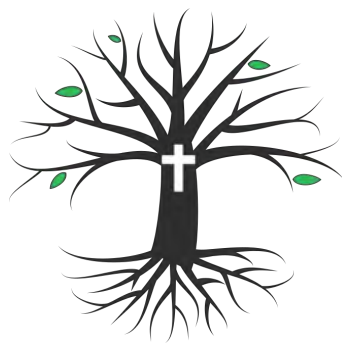
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 1, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

The holy lives all around us, the sacred grows beneath our feet... Here, on this brilliant blue planet, on this emerald ball dancing before the stars, is our temple, our place of worship, our spiritual home... our once and future heaven.

- Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, Choctaw

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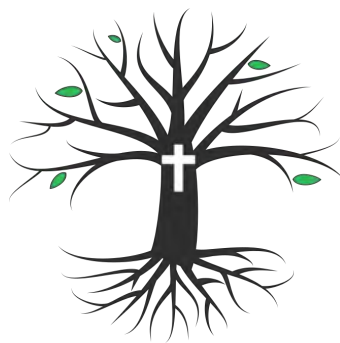


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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 2, 2023



Photo: John Bullitt

Like a saturated sponge, creation is dripping wet with divine presence, so to speak. Like a soaking ocean, a flowing fountain, an inexhaustible wellspring of sweet water, the life of the Spirit pervades the world.

- Elizabeth Johnson, *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love*

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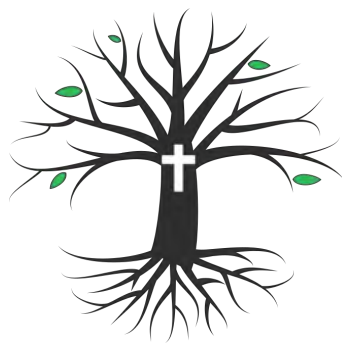
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 3, 2023



Photo: Christine Jonas Labich

A first step to live harmoniously within creation is to reverence the marvelous diversity of life forms.

- Kevin Treston

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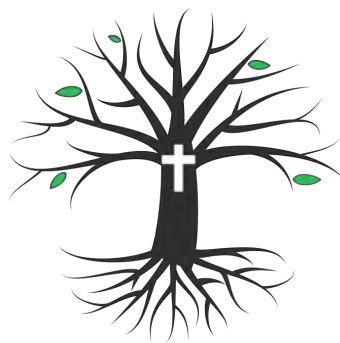
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 4, 2023



Photo: Robert A. Jonas

If attentiveness can lead to wonder, and wonder can lead to love, and love can lead to protective action, then maybe being aware of the beautiful complexity of lives on Earth is at least a first step toward saving the great systems our lives depend on.

- Kathleen Dean Moore, *Great Tide Rising: Towards Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change*

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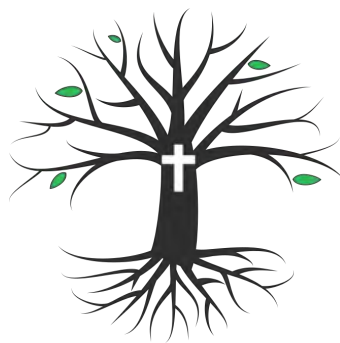
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 6, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures... Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has a duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

- Pope Francis, [Laudato Si – Praise Be to You](#) (67)

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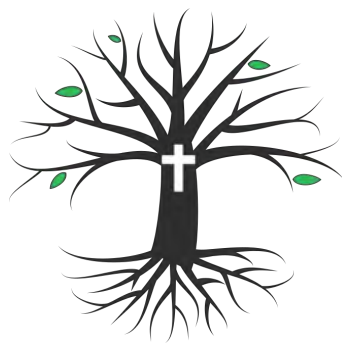
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 7, 2023



Robin chicks. Photo: Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

We fulfill our role in the created order only when we recognize our responsibility to help perpetuate other creatures' fruitfulness.

– Ellen Davis, “Meaning of Dominion”

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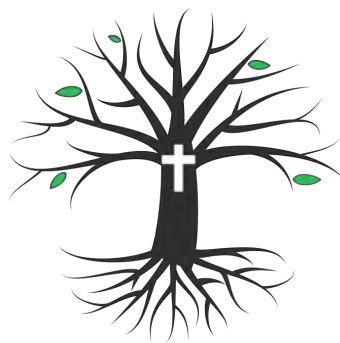
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 8, 2023



Photo: Dollarphotoclub 43647937

Our destruction of nature is not just bad stewardship, or stupid economics, or a betrayal of family responsibility; it is the most horrid blasphemy. It is flinging God's gifts into his face, as of no worth beyond that assigned to them by our destruction of them.

-Wendell Berry, "Christianity and the Survival of Creation"

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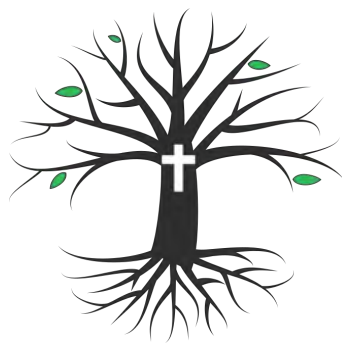
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 9, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

I do not believe we will solar panel or vote our way out of this crisis without also radically reframing our connection with our Mother.

-Tara Houska (Zhaabowekwe, Couchiching First Nation),
"Sacred Resistance," [All We Can Save](#)

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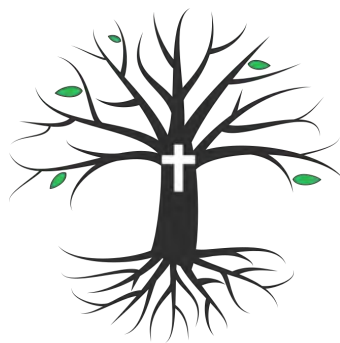
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 10, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

The mindset which leaves no room for sincere concern for the environment is the same mindset which lacks concern for the inclusion of the most vulnerable members of society.

- Pope Francis, [Laudato Si – Praise Be to You](#) (196)

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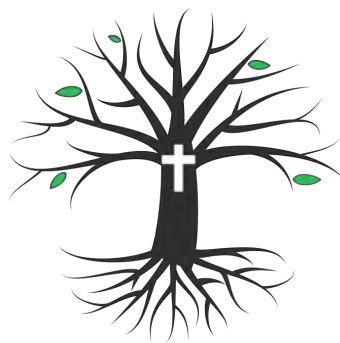
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 11, 2023



Photo: Unsplash @ruralexplorer

Go out in the woods, go out. If you don't go out in the woods nothing will ever happen and your life will never begin.

- Clarissa Pinkola Estés, [Women Who Run with the Wolves](#)

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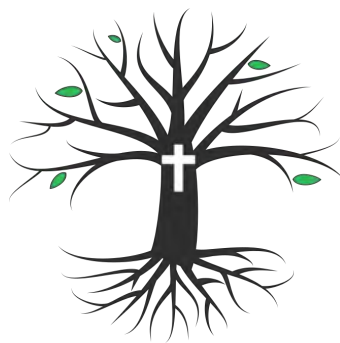
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 13, 2023



Half Dome, Yosemite. Photo: Jim Antal

Aren't we privileged to live in a time when everything is at stake, and when our efforts make a difference in the eternal contest between the forces of light and shadow, between togetherness and division, between justice and exploitation? Oh, be joyful that you are a warrior in this great time!

Will we rise to this battle? If so, we cannot lose, for rising up to it is our victory. If we represent love in the world, you see, we have already won.

- Doris "Granny D" Haddock (1910-2010, U.S. political activist)

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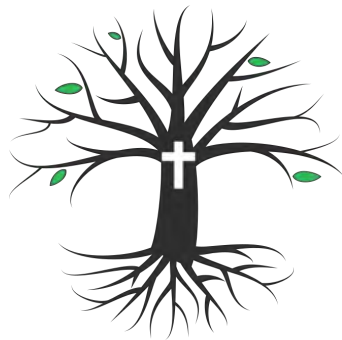
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 14, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

You're always practicing something. So you're either practicing upholding the world as it is, or you're practicing shifting into the world as you want it to be.

- adrienne maree brown

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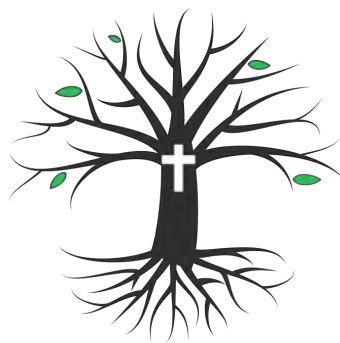
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 15, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

If I had ever known that this terrible situation for our planet – the threats to life on earth – was going to come, and my people – our people, each other – that we'd be faced by this, I would want so much to be there. I wouldn't want to miss it!.... It doesn't mean I think I've an answer. I think that it's very important to feel baffled and overwhelmed. But this is my world. I love it deeply. It's a living planet. It's got incredible history. And I wouldn't ever want to miss this, what we're facing now...

I think that as we come to [our] limits ... a more intense love for life and readiness to risk everything for the sake of life will be born to us, and powers of valor and self-discipline and passion and attention to life itself is going to be born to us in new ways.

So don't isolate yourself. Of course, it looks bleak! It always looks bleak before you have to grow something, a new capacity that's pushing us. This is a birthing time as well as a dying time. There are forces and capacities ready to birth inside each one of us if we keep our spirit and courage.

- Joanna Macy, comments transcribed from "The Dharma and Destiny of a Planet People," at Tricycle's [Buddhism and Ecology Summit](#), April 20, 2022. The complete video is available [here](#).

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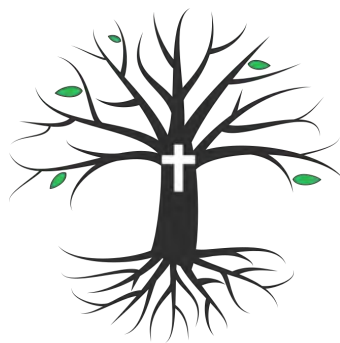
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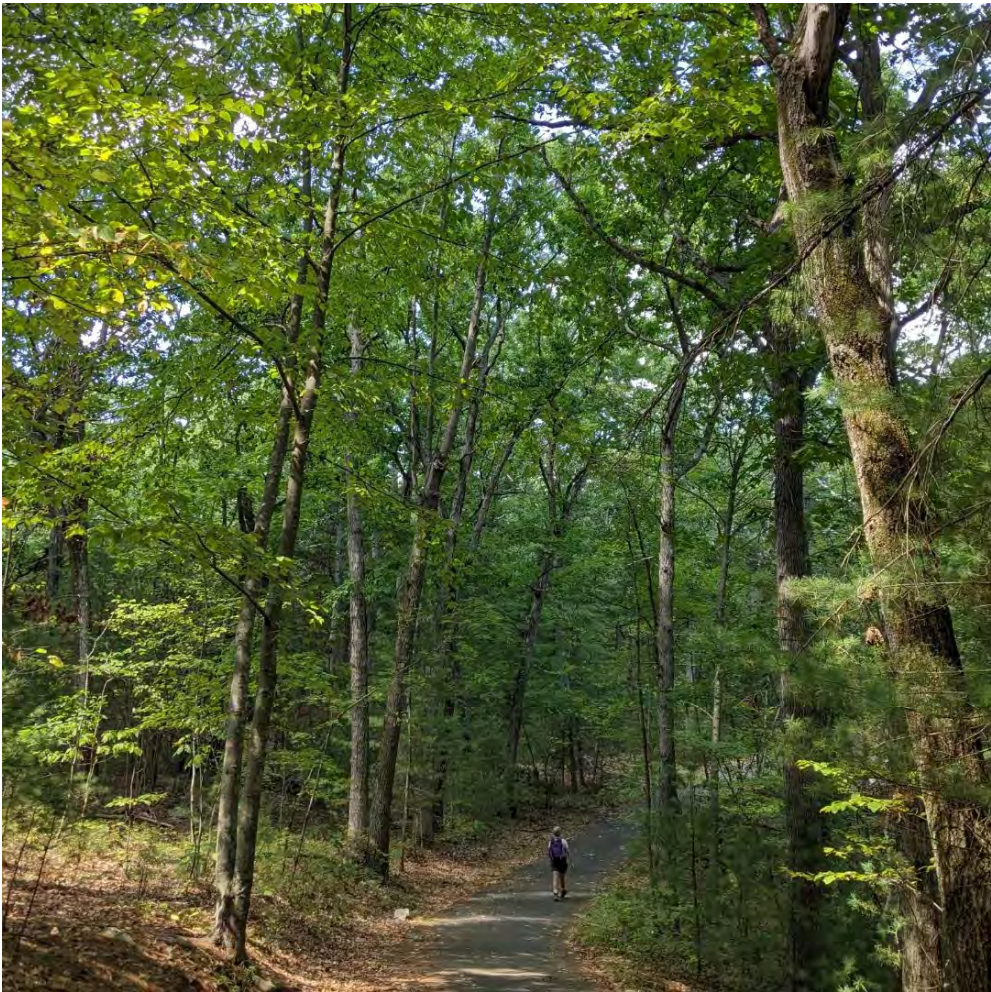


Photo: Fred Small

Active hope is a practice... It is something we do rather than have. It is a process we can apply to any situation, and it involves three key steps.

First, we take a clear view of reality; second, we identify what we hope for, in terms of the direction we'd like to move in or values we'd like to see expressed; and third, we take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction.

- Chris Johnstone

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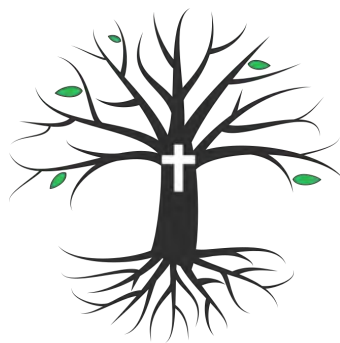
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

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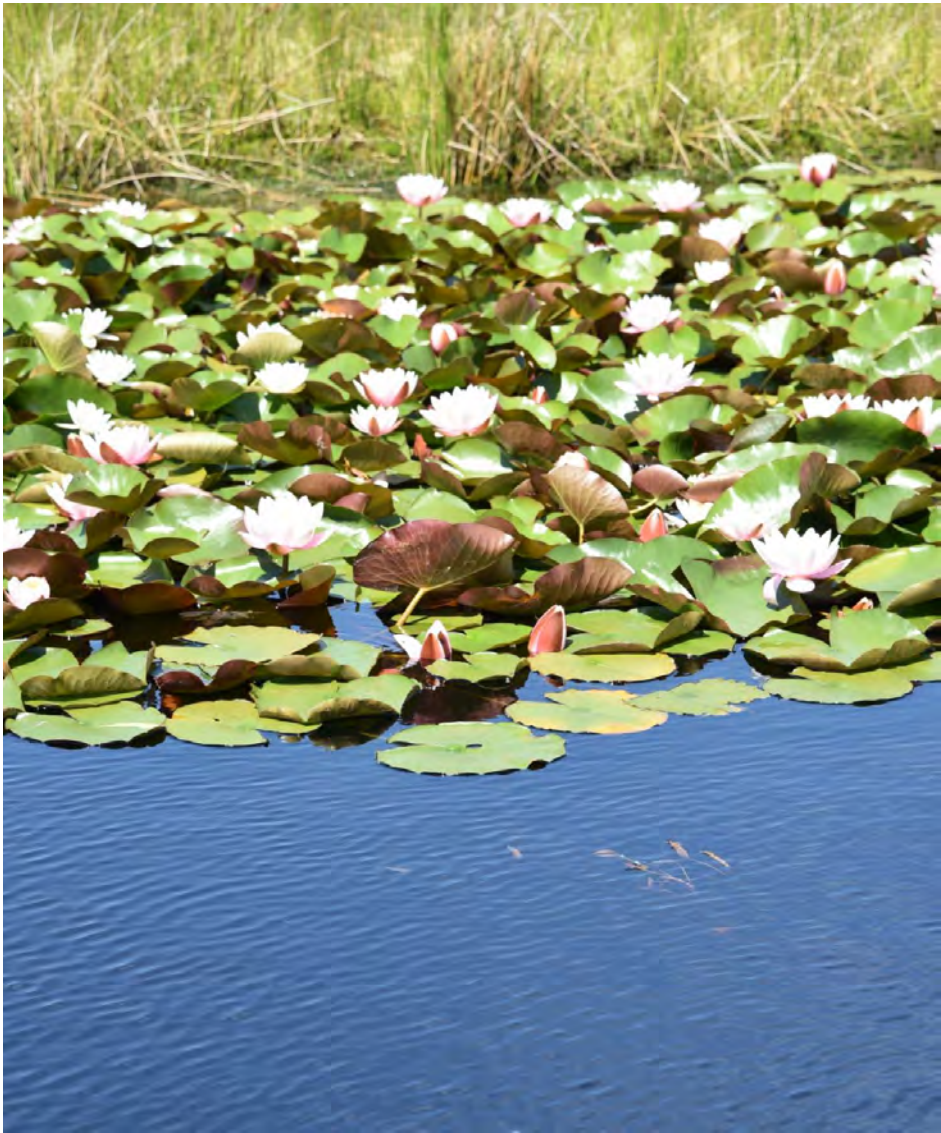


Photo: Jason Blais

How can we reciprocate the gifts of the Earth? In gratitude, in ceremony, through acts of practical reverence and land stewardship, in fierce defense of the beings and places we love, in art, in science, in song, in gardens, in children, in ballots, in stories of renewal, in creative resistance, in how we spend our money and our precious lives, by refusing to be complicit with the forces of ecological destruction. In healing.

- Robin Wall Kimmerer

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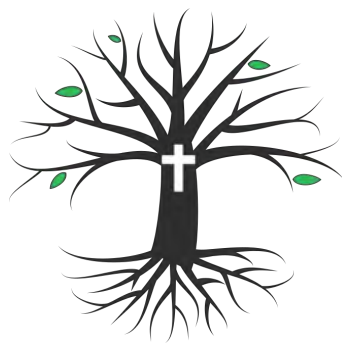
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 18, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

The divine communicates to us primarily through the language of the natural world. Not to hear the natural world is not to hear the divine.

- Thomas Berry, [The Sacred Universe](#)

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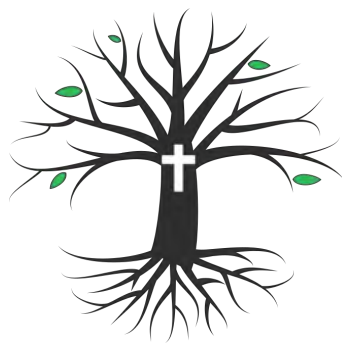
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 20, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

We can nurture our capacity for communion by simply living *as if* we are among sentient beings whom we honour and respect. We can do it by cultivating the art of attentive listening, and by respectfully conversing with them as if it is a natural thing to do... As we open ourselves to Earth as a sentient planet, Earth and her beings will respond.

- Wendy Chew

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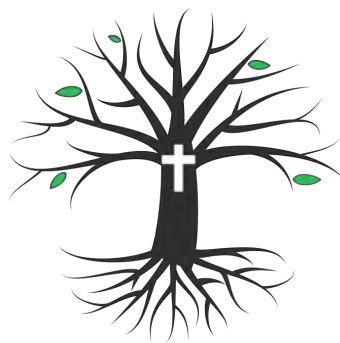
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 21, 2023



Photo: Robert A. Jonas

The first and most essential element in an ecological conversion is coming to an effective awareness and acceptance that everything in our world is connected... Ecologists call this network the “web of life” which includes animals, plants, and everything which can be understood to be alive. They also speak of “the web of the cosmos,” which includes the non-living arts of our universe, ranging from the most distant galaxies to the most microscopic elements.

- Donal Dorr

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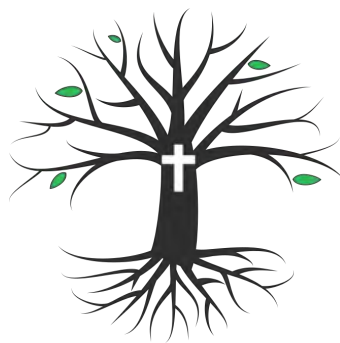
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 22, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

God of the galaxies, God of the starburst and sunlit morning,
God of the forest and shining seas, God of the blooming
desert and rolling grasslands – shine on us today and bless us
with your presence.

-Anne Rowthorn, [God's Good Earth: Praise and Prayer for Creation](#)

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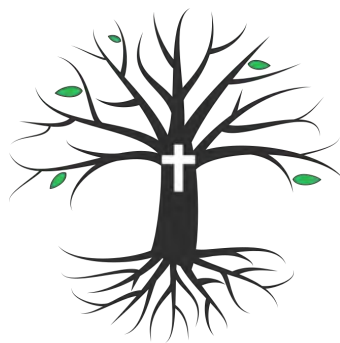
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 23, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

Here we can see how precious Earth is as the only living planet that we know, how profoundly it reveals mysteries of the divine, how carefully it should be tended, how great an evil it is to damage its basic life systems, to ruin its beauty, to plunder its resources. For these things to be done by Christians or without significant Christian protest is a scandal of the primary order of magnitude.

- Thomas Berry, [The Christian Future and the Fate of the Earth](#)

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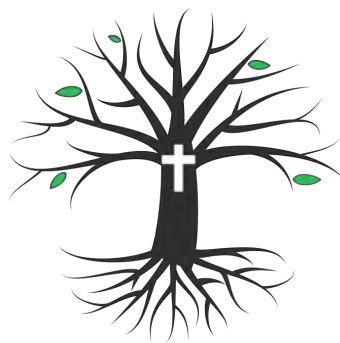
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 24, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world,
receiving the gifts with open eyes and open heart.

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants](#)

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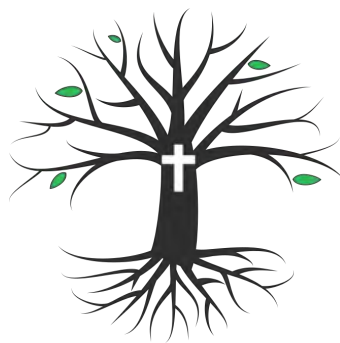
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 25, 2023



Photo: Robert A. Jonas

Let us join with the Earth and each other – To bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to protect the animals, to treasure the trees, to gaze at the stars, to cherish the human community, to heal the Earth, to remember the children. Let us go forth to put our words into action.

-Dianne L. Neu, [Return Blessings: Ecofeminist Liturgies Renewing the Earth](#)

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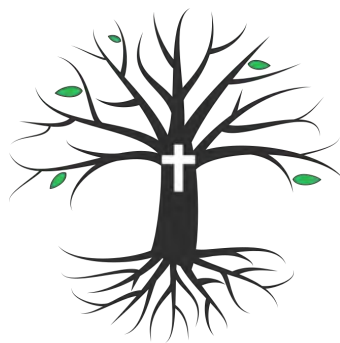
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 27, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

It could be the eternal project of mankind, to learn what forests have figured out.

- Patricia, a character in Richard Powers' novel, [The Overstory](#)

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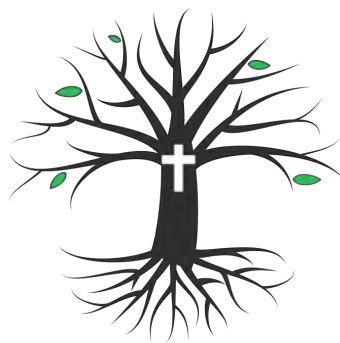
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 28, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

What we know in the depths of our being [is] that the earth is sacred and that this sacredness is at the heart of every human being and life-form. To awaken again to this deep knowing is to be transformed in the ways we choose to live and relate and act.

- John Philip Newell, [Sacred Earth Sacred Soul](#)

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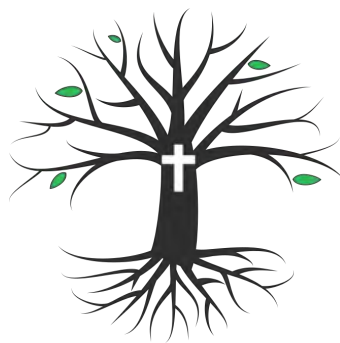
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 29, 2023



Photo: Christine Labich Jonas

Wonder is a gateway through which the universe floods in and takes up residence within us.

- Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, [Journey of the Universe](#)

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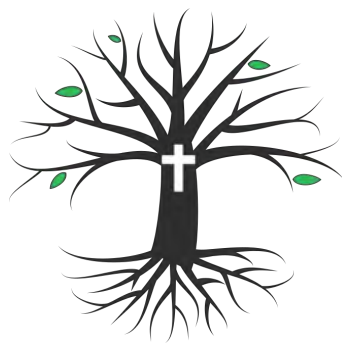
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 30, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

Here we might propose that a viable future for the human community rests largely upon a new relationship between the human communities and the planet on which we dwell. We need to appreciate that both our physical and our spiritual survival depend on the visible world about us.

We would have no inner life of mind, imagination, or emotion without the wonder, the beauty, and the intimacy offered us by the dawn and sunset, the singing birds and the cry of the wolf, by the meadows and all their flowers, by the grandeur of the mountains and the vastness of the sea.

- Thomas Berry

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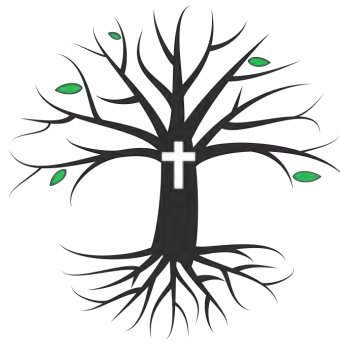
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

March 31, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

This world, in which we are born and take our being, is alive. It is not our supply house and sewer. It is our larger body. The intelligence that evolved us from stardust, and interconnects us with all beings, is sufficient for the healing of our Earth community.

- Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown, [Coming Back to Life](#)

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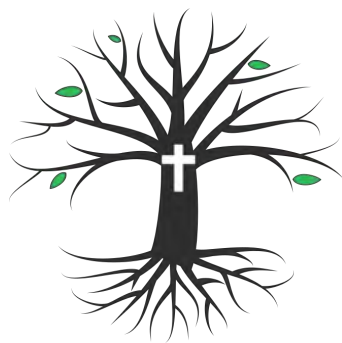
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 1, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

We lie in the lap of an immense intelligence.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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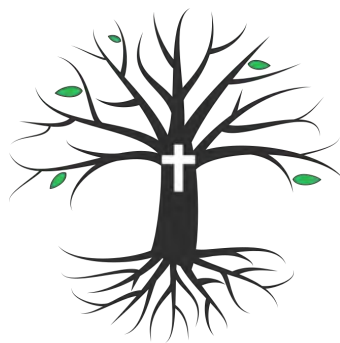
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 3, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

This story [the Universe Story] has the power to awaken us more deeply to who we are. For just as the Milky Way is the universe in the form of a galaxy, and an orchid is the universe in the form of a flower, we are the universe in the form of a human.

And every time we are drawn to look up into the night sky and reflect on the awesome beauty of the universe, we are actually the universe reflecting on itself. And this changes everything.

- Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, [The Universe Story](#)

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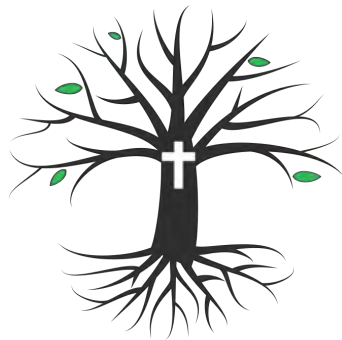
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 4, 2023



Photo: Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (c.f. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

- Pope Francis, [Laudato Si – Praise Be to You \(2\)](#)

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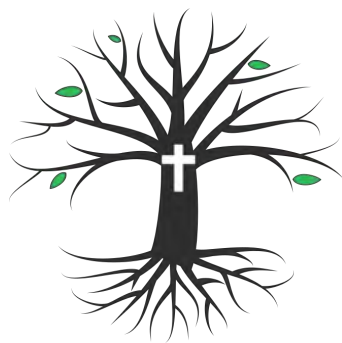
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 5, 2023



Photo: Robert A. Jonas

What if getting our relationship right with the Earth and all its creatures is not the scenic backdrop of some circus sideshow but as crucial as getting our relations right with our Creator, our family, and our neighbors?

What if all of Creation is the most palpable expression of our Creator's generosity, sense of wonder, and commitment to diversity?

What happens if we begin to include the fungi, the flowers, the fritillary butterflies, and the flocks of wild geese as our neighbors, our family, and our Creator's expressive face?

- Gary Paul Nabhan, "Loving the Earth," Center for Action and Contemplation

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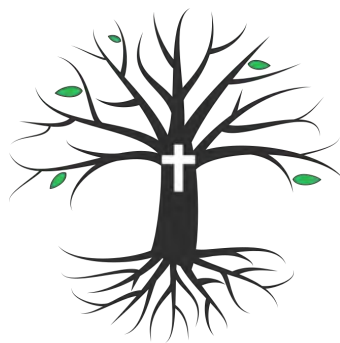
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 6, 2023



Photo: Robert A. Jonas

The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship: “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross” (Col 1:19-20) ...

The creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fulfilling their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.

- Pope Francis, [Laudato Si – Praise Be to You](#) (100)

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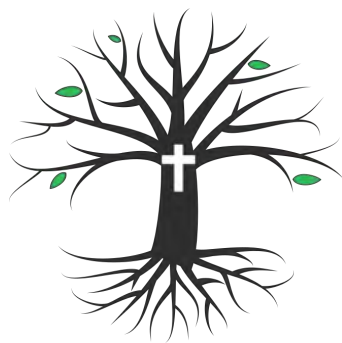
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 7, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
so much has been destroyed

I have to cast my lot with those
who age after age, perversely,

with no extraordinary power,
reconstitute the world.

- Adrienne Rich, "Resources" (excerpt), [The Dream of a Common Language](#)

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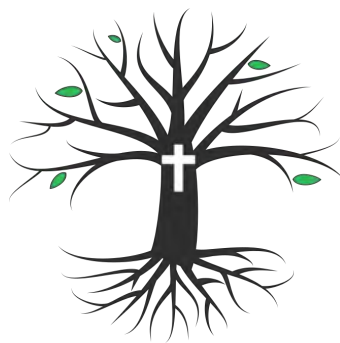
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Renewing God's Creation: Daily Meditations for Lent

April 8, 2023



Photo: Jason Blais

Is it too late? We know what the science says. What does your conscience say? What does “too late” even mean? Too late for what? Even in the face of all we now know, will it ever be too late for some kind of faith in human decency; or to hold onto some kind of hope, however irrational it may seem, in our fellow human beings; or to love our brothers and sisters on this earth?

Because these things – faith and hope and love – are every bit as real as the science, every bit as real as the CO2 in the atmosphere and the carbon in the ground. As real as the melting Arctic and the acidifying oceans.

And as Dr. King knew, these things – faith, hope, love – are the very stuff that movements are made of: real movements, the kind of radical, transformative movements that have changed the course of history in the past and maybe, just maybe, might change it again. If enough of us are willing to fight, and to fight hard enough, and to fight lovingly enough, and never give up. If we’re willing to engage in this struggle – this radical and loving struggle – for each other.

- Wen Stephenson, [What We Are Fighting for Now Is Each Other](#)



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