

“In the Hope that Creation Will Be Set Free”

Romans 8: 19-22

Each December, as we begin our Advent journey to Bethlehem, the days grow shorter and the light which surrounds us begins to fade. The darkness seems to grow more and more with each passing day, bringing fear to our hearts. Yet, instead of allowing this fear to take root and overwhelm us, we turn towards Creation because “the roots of Advent run deep beneath the Christian Church...to the earth and its seasons. It is through our connection to Creation where we rediscover the essential rhythms of life. It is there where we experience the wisdom of God. It is there where we are reminded that “when that primal fear of the dark...begins to slide over us, [creation] offers us unfearful responses. [It] takes in the threat of dark and cold and adapts in amazing and ingenious ways. [Creation] shapes itself to life as it is given.” All Creation waits, reminding us that the “dark is not an end, but a door. This is the way a new beginning comes.”

Read Scripture...(Message Version)

Paul uses this image of giving birth to remind us that we often labor in love and pain to bring about a new beginning. Paul realizes that it is not just us as humankind who are anticipating the day when God's Kingdom is fully realized here on Earth. All Creation is waiting. All Creation is anticipating. All Creation is laboring in love to bring about wholeness and reconciliation.

Creation knows what we humans tend to forget. It knows that we are intimately connected with one another and with all of God's creatures. If one part hurts, we all hurt. If one part celebrates, we all celebrate. If one part is destroyed, then we in turn destroy ourselves.

In reality what Paul is saying is that Creation is waiting for us as humankind to get our stuff together, to figure out how to live in peace with one another, to figure out what it means to live in community with one another. Not just to tolerate each other but to embrace each other as made in the image of God, brothers and sisters all in the name of Christ Jesus. Creation is waiting for us to open our hearts and our minds to the light of God which resides in all things so that one day, the darkness which surrounds our world will be no more.

All Creation is waiting for us as people of faith to embrace the gift of love given to us so long ago. And until then...it waits. It hopes, It knows that the Spirit of God is still working in this world to bring about its release so that it will soon be

set free. Until that moment comes, all creation waits, groaning in labor pains,
whispering a prayer, voicing a hope which is deeply rooted in the Earth...a hope
for all things to be made new. Amen.