

The Perfect Star: Creation

Psalm 136: 1-9; 23-26

This text is not part of our usual Advent texts. There is no John the Baptist, preaching, calling for the people to repent. There is no prophet Isaiah, proclaiming that a branch will rise from the stump of Jesse. There are no shouts in the wilderness for all of God's people to hear, calling them to "Prepare the way of the Lord." Our text this morning comes from the psalms, a psalm that is traditionally read during the Easter Vigil. No, I haven't mixed up my seasons or lost my mind. I chose this text because the good news for us as people of faith that frees us is an understanding that the miracles of God are not limited to a particular time, place or season and a realization that we do a disservice to God and to ourselves when we limit and compartmentalize God's saving acts of grace and miracles of love into specific seasons and for specific people. The good news of this Psalm is to celebrate that God's love endures forever. That's it. That's the good news! God's love endures forever! God's love never quits.

Our Scripture lesson today invites us to realize that the saving, creating and life-sustaining miracles that amaze us, that renew us, that refresh us, that fill us with hope and peace are all centered, grounded and sustained by God and by God's love. In our Scripture we are reminded of the miracles that God has done in the

past: forming the cosmos, laying out the earth on the ocean's foundations, filling the sky with lights. Miracles that are big and bold. In our Scripture today, we are reminded of the miracles that God has done and continues to do for us each and every day: God remembers us when we are down. God takes care of us in our times of need. God give us food to sustain us. God nourishes and comforts us as God's very own. Miracles that are simple, seemingly ordinary, miracles that we sometimes take for granted. In our Scripture today, we are reminded most importantly of God's greatest miracle: Gods' love for us, a love that was in the beginning, that continues now, and will always be there for us as God's very own. In our Scripture today, we are filled with the miraculous understanding that God's love endures forever. We are filled with the miraculous understanding that God's love never quits. We are filled with the miraculous understanding that this gift of God's love is so life-changing and so life-transforming that it frees us to become the people that God created us to be here on earth.

As we hear this text, we realize that Our Scripture today invites us to embrace the fact that we are surrounded by miracles each and every day of our lives, not just in the Advent season, every day, seemingly ordinary miracles that are grounded, centered and sustain by God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, miracles And we have to look no farther than God's own creation to know that this is true.

As people of faith, We know that God's creation is full of saving acts of grace because we've seen them. We've experienced them. We've gazed upon them with awe and wonder. As people of faith, We know and claim that God's creation is bright with God's light, filled with promises of hope and peace because that is the promise of the resurrection given to all of God's children. As people of faith, we know that God's creation is full of miracles – new life, birth, renewal, re-growth, big, small, bold and simple. We know this because we've experienced God creative power in our own lives from the air that we breath, to the sun to warm us, to the trees that shade us, to the flowers that share their beauty with us. They are all a part of God's creative power.

Each and every time we gaze upon God's creation, we are filled with a sense of awe and become part of the miracles created and sustained by God, miracles that are big and bold, miracles that are simple and seemingly ordinary, miracles that we take for granted, miracles that are the very essence of life.

Our Scripture invites us to remember God's saving acts and miracles throughout history and to stand in awe and wonder at our Creator, to remember that the God who made the heavens and the earth, the God who gave us the stars at night made us in God's very own image. To remember that God alone has done great, to remember that God who made the highest mountains, takes notice when

we are in need, and to remember that the God who breathed the universe into being breathed new life into us as well.

That is the story that the perfect star, creation, brings to us today: a story that reminds us God is good and holy, a story that reminds us that God is the maker of it all, a story that comforts us and strengthens us as we hear once more that God's love endures forever.

The story that the perfect start creation tells us is that our story, the Story is filled with miracles and wonders that God alone can do and invites us to celebrate and worship God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, that our story, the Story is a call to celebrate God's saving grace, that our story, the Story is a call to celebrate the wonders of God's love.

During our Advent celebrations, we are called remember the past, look to the future with hope and anticipation and receive a special invitation to remember the wonders and miracles of God's love for all of us. During Advent, We are invited to see the miracles of life all around us from the big and bold to the simple, ordinary ones that we take for granted. During Advent, the perfect star, creation, is inviting us to experience the miracles of God in our lives: the air that we breath, the sun and the moon, the stars that guide us home, the trees that shade us and the flowers that share their beauty with us.

Our lives are filled with miracles that celebrate the creative and sustaining power of God. Every morning we wake up is a miracle from God. Every evening when we fall is asleep, that is a miracle from God. The food on our tables is a miracle from God. The air that we breath is a miracle from God. Our very beings are miracles from God.

During our Advent celebrations, the perfect star, creation invites us to see that our world, the creation that surrounds us is filled with God's creating light, miracles of life and love. We are invited to see that the greatest miracle of all is that God's love endures forever, that God's love never quits.

The challenge that the perfect star, creation also brings is a reminder for us that as people of faith, we have a responsibility for creation even as we experience the miracles that fill it. We are called to embrace our important role as care-takers and stewards of God's creation. We are called to realize that creation is groaning and waiting in anticipation along with us for that moment when the Kingdom of God will come and all will be made well. We are called to realize that the promised Messiah, the promised Emmanuel, the promised "God with us" is coming for all of God's creation, not just humans.

When we hear these words of praise found in Psalm 136, we are reminded that we are called to live holy lives, lives that we do more than "regard beauty, and its creation and conservation as a pleasant but irrelevant extra". We are called to

live holy lives now, lives that manifest the signs of hope and peace for all of God's creation, lives that appreciate and respect the miracles that fill us with wonder and awe as we gaze up God's creative power, manifest in the world around us. We are called to remember again that God has given Christ, Emmanuel, to all of the world to bring hope and peace to all that await his coming.

“All Earth is waiting to see the Promised one”, All earth is waiting for Christ to come again. All earth is waiting for justice, hope and peace. All earth is waiting...

May we open our hearts and minds to the story that the stars are telling us.

Amen.

