

Sacred Earth, Sacred Worth

A Worship Design Studio series
introducing Creation Spirituality



Collaboration with the Creation
Spiritualities Communities
Working Group

When God began to create the heavens and the earth— the earth was without shape or form... and God’s wind swept over the waters... God saw everything God had made: it was supremely good.

What if we lived life truly connected to the origins of Creation and the Creator? In the beginning God created all things and called them originally “good.” In this series we will explore six essential ideas found in Creation Spirituality—a way of living within the community of earth that deepens our reverence for life, participates in the creativity of the cosmos, and develops our passion for justice and human transformation. It compels us to lead lives of spiritual inquiry, creativity, and prophetic action as our sacred work in the world.

Creation as Blessing

6/10/18

In the beginning God created... and saw that it was good. Genesis 1 - 2:4

The Universe, and all life within it, is fundamentally a blessing, fundamentally good, and created to flourish—including us. This doesn’t prevent hardship and difficulties, but it does strengthen us as we go through tough times. It allows us to deepen in faith and spirituality without fear. Life in all its joys and struggles is a blessing—which means, it is something worth sharing. How might moving through our days with an eye for recognizing goodness and blessing transform our experience of life?

Spirit of Compassion

6/17/18

Jesus said, “The first [commandment] in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’

And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." - Mark 12: 28-34

It is through the work of spiritual practice that we move beyond fear into compassion and discover our deep and true selves. Engaging in spiritual practices—whether that looks typically religious (like praying) or not (like walking) have *intentionality* in common. They draw us closer to the Creator and who we were created to be—free and compassionate beings. What practices in your life draw you closer to your true essence and closer to compassion for others?

The Paths of Life

6/24/18

"You changed my mourning into dancing. You took off my funeral clothes and dressed me up in joy so that my whole being might sing praises to you and never stop. Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever." - Psalm 30

The spiritual journey can be understood as a dance moving in and out of four mystical paths, each with their own gifts: awe and wonder; letting go; creativity; compassion and justice. These "cycles of life" are born out of the seasons of the planet and remind us that there is a time for everything and that fluctuations of the spirit are part of being human. Can we accept the Holy invitation to move fully into *all* the rhythms of life?

Sacred Creative Vocation

7/1/18

Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me." Isaiah 6: 1-8

Made in the image of the Creator, every one of us carries within us the capacity to be a mystic, to be creative, to be visionary, and to be an agent for positive change. It is our responsibility to say "here I am, send me" and to cultivate our capacity to benefit the earth and all it's creatures. What are we creating in this world that will cause positive ripples into the future?

Glorious Diversity

7/8/18

"Then God scattered them from there all over the world. And they had to quit building the city. That's how it came to be called Babel, because there God turned their language into "babble." From there God scattered them all over the world." Genesis 11: 1-9

Creation Spirituality rejoices in and courageously honors the rich diversity within the Cosmos which is expressed in every individual and embodies multiple cultures, religions, and ancestral traditions. Creation is rife with theme and variation and yet fear has driven us to try to tame, label and homogenize it. What do we lose when we privilege dominant

voices and limit perspectives? Diversity is another name for God and should be celebrated!

Healing Relationships

7/15/18

"Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in God and God remains in us, because we have been given a measure of God's Spirit." - 1 John 4: 7-21

We live in sacred relationship with every other living thing. Our food, our health, our homes, our vocations are all part of an interconnected community. Creation hangs in the balance when we forget this connection. We acknowledge that our species and the entire earth community depends upon the healing of harm already done, moving toward sustainability for the future, and harmony that offers live-giving coexistence for all. Can we embrace our responsibility to care? Now is the time, if we want a future.