

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
The God of the Nature

Re. Erika Martinez-Flores
Job 38.1-29
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Outdoor Joint Worship

For the beauty of the Earth, God's creation, that we are gathered here, honoring not only the bonds of friendship and the agape love that unite us as children of God. We also honor the beauty that surrounds us. However, can we understand this greatness? Although science has revealing to us many truths about the work of God, even so, there is much to discover, much to understand, much to learn.

From the storm, the voice of Jehovah is heard challenging Job: "Prepare yourself like a man and let me ask you a few questions. You have stated that you want a trial before me. Let me test your competition to see if you can answer a few simple questions first." In the story that follows, the voice of Jehovah puts Job through a series of searching questions.

"Where were you when I founded the earth?" Where were the humans? Where did the universe come from? How did it originate? Who made it exist? What process was followed? For centuries this has been a question that we have asked ourselves and we still have not found clear answers.

How did God hang the earth on nothing, as Job himself asked earlier in this account. In the days when the Scriptures were written, the scientific world believed that the earth was flat. There were strange and legendary accounts of how the earth had its origins, saying that it floated on the backs of elephants or rested on the shells of turtles that swam in the sea. But in the book of Job we find the very clear statement that God hung the earth on nothing.

Now God asks Job: "How did that happen?" How does the earth hang between various heavenly bodies in such a way that it moves in an orderly procession throughout the limitless expanse of space? How can it be? We do not know it yet. Finally, God says, "Where were you when this happened?" and ties it to a tremendous event in which all of creation suddenly seemed to erupt into harmony and melody: "when all the morning stars sang together and rejoiced "

These questions are a confrontation for Job and for us, and it reminds us of how small we are, it reminds us that we are completely dependent on God's power and dominion, but also on God's mercy and love.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” 92 UMH 1

For the beauty of the Earth, and because we are but stewards; then the question arises, who are we to believe ourselves to be the owners of all this? How we dare to take possession of what does not belong to us and dedicate ourselves to exploiting, corrupting and destroying it?

Our life depends on the environment, we are integrated into this ecological system, of which we are a part. Each species occupies a specific place or space, on its habitat in which each of these species performs its work for which it was created. Everything created is the great patrimony given by God to all human beings so that they can live. The environment is its wealth. It is a common heritage, which has no borders, in such a way that anyone who damages it in one part of the earth has repercussions throughout the world. We all have to be supportive in maintaining it.

Caring for the environment and ecological balance should be a priority in the lives of believers, because in our origins and as God's first mandate, we were designed to care for and till the earth (Gen 2.15). As a result of our disobedience to God and the fall, the earth was damaged along with the ecological balance (Gen 3), but despite this, the mandate to care for the earth and till it remains in force. His Word clearly instructs us to take care of the earth to maintain it and to multiply our days and those of our children.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” 92 UMH 2

The environmental and ecological crisis, the desertification of large tracts of land, the depletion of many natural resources due to their overexploitation, the extinction of animal and plant species, etc., makes us see, in a very evident way, the need to resume human stewardship of the earth and is a testimony to the wisdom of God who instructed her long before the environment entered its current crisis.

The leadership in that good stewardship of the earth should be from Christians. The prophets, especially Jeremiah, denounced Israel for not fulfilling her part in caring for the land. As good stewards created in the image and likeness of God, we must live in harmony with God, with our neighbor, and with all of creation in order to discover its secrets, listen to its voice, and celebrate its beauty.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” 92 UMH 6

For the beauty of this earth, I urge you to **contemplate** before the gift of creation, appreciate, value each of the things that God has given us, only in this way can we praise God the Father, creator of so many beauties, organizer of all creation, giver of the natural laws of each being so that it exists as it was created for the good of the whole.

Contemplating to feel us part of this, but also taking a distance to feel something different, taking a distance to unravel the being of each thing, to recreate wisely from the given elements, to invent, and to put everything at the service not only of humans , but also at the service of everything created.

Let's listen the voice of the nature, where the voice of God also comes from. Because nature is also the source of God's revelation in the language of creation. **Let us admire** nature, its beauty, its grandeur and see in it the Creator and Christ who through the incarnation assumed everything created. **Let us assume** the preservation of our environment as a task that involves the entire human race, a common task, our response of faith to a God Creator of heaven and earth.

What God gave us as a gift, we must assume as a task, as the main task to maintain the sustainability of the human being on earth. The person gets hold of the resources that he finds in his midst; it is his task. She is the culmination of all creation, and is responsible before God the creator.