



While We're Here

October 17, 2021

Romans 8:18-28

Connect:

- ***All Things Bright and Beautiful*** is an old hymn that illustrates some havens in or about our natural world: There are many songs which make mention of things you have seen. It could be anything from ***The Ants Go Marching***, to ***Over the Rainbow***. Picture in your mind where you have seen what the song sings about and then hum or sing the lyric as best you remember. How does this line of music change when you have the personal visual in your head? Now sing it again as if God's voice is creating this place for you to one day experience. How does the visual memory change for you?
- The Scripture calls humankind the children of God. Do you have a memory as a child, or with a child, where an observation or interaction with something in nature seemed to be drawing you in? Did anything about this feel like holiness? Can you talk about that shared experience and if it was more important because it received as or with a child?

Engage

- Read ***Romans 8:18-28*** What stands out to you in this poetic passage as something you had not thought about before, even if you are quite familiar with this passage. What is the significance of this for you?
- Have you ever experienced and know the "sigh too deep for words?" The scripture says that this is the language of the Holy Spirit who intercedes when we do not know what to pray. Interestingly it then says that God interprets this language and understands the reason and wordlessness of the sigh. Was this an 'aha' moment of spiritual recognition for you? If you are comfortable, share your story.
- Describe a clean up, a campaign, an effort to reduce, reuse or recycle that you engaged with. Was your participation secured by another person asking you? Have you been the one asking for this from others? How do you feel about the time spent and the people who sided up with you?
- Richard

Next Steps:

- Create a list of things you could do to help reduce your footprint and carbon emissions in the earth.
- Set aside a time in public or private worship where you will pray with creation for the healing of the earth. Pray for the discernment of our Green Chalice team and watch for ways you could enter into or endorse their plans. If you have a spirit of caution, please contact a team leader and share that hesitation with them so as not to feel unheard or insignificant in your convictions.
- As you lay to rest each night, go through the SIX senses and say grace over the ways in/of nature you have been able to experience with taste, smell, sight, hearing, touching and Spirit.

Pray:

- *"Creator God, creating still, thank you for the beauty and bounty of your design all around us. Help us to see how every nuance of creation reflects your character and be glad. We pray for all who advocate and reveal the spirit of your love in all created things. We pray for those who are making a difference in reversing the damages the earth has suffered under human action or inaction. Please continue to bless the earth and sustain us in it as we build it to be your Kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen."*