

Fragile Earth Eucharist

This was written as part of a series of Sundays we did looking at the theme of our relationship to the earth and using a wonderful "Godly Play" resource called "Fragile Earth" written by Peter Privet. We used the first four of his sessions looking at how human behaviour is destroying our environment, our relationship to rural communities and how our food is produced, relationships within our local community and issues of world trade justice. This Eucharist was written to tie the series together and also draws on the creation story from Genesis and uses the structure of seven days to look at both God's creation and humanity's destruction our fragile earth.

In the beginning of God's creating
God flung orbs of light across the heavens
made galaxies of twinkling stars
drew clouds of gases together
and created the planets...
and it was good.

In the beginning of God's brooding
God crafted a small blue and green planet
set it spinning on its axis around a golden sun
made day and night, summer and winter
and set the ebb and flow of the tides...
and it was good.

In the beginning of God's conceiving
God erupted mountains and hills
gouged valleys and painstakingly laid down plains
made frozen ice caps and tropical rainforests
stretched out grassy savannahs and remote foothills...
and it was good.

In the beginning of God's gestating
God drew tiny molecules together
and created microscopic organisms, the flicker of life,
planted seeds, watered and nourished them
till roots and shoots pushed their way through the soil...
and it was good.

In the beginning of God's labour
God created fish to swarm in the oceans
and the first amphibians crawled onto dry land
and reptiles basked in the warmth of the sun
wings were stretched as birds took to the skies the skies...
and it was good.

In the beginning of God's birthing
God laughed as insects in all their variety emerged
and blood began to run warm in animal's veins
mammals began to suckle their young
and the first human's uttered the name of God...
and it was good.

In the beginning of God's resting
God put up her feet and nestled tight

against her tiny, newborn planet
smelled the fresh earth
and examined its tiny fingers and toes...
and it was very good.

But God's resting was punctuated
by a new-born cry demanding attention
the intricate secrets of space were shattered
by the exploration of space craft
and the orbit of satellites looking down on the earth...
and it was not so good.

But God's resting was interrupted
by a croup-like cough
as fresh air becomes choked with greenhouse gasses
from belching power stations
and exhaust fumes from rapidly multiplying cars...
and it was not so good.

But God's resting was disturbed
by toddlers refusing to share
as rainforests are cut down and deserts advance
as the land warms up and ice caps melt
as oceans are over fished and waters polluted...
and it was not so good.

But God's resting was disrupted
by siblings squabbling
as crops are genetically modified
and land sprayed with pesticides
as some people become obese, while others go hungry...
and it was not so good.

But God's resting was broken
by teenagers rebelling
fighting over land and oil
quarrelling about whose beliefs or political system is better
as armies, tanks and missiles move in and lives explode...
and it was not so good.

But God's resting was shattered
by humanity's fear of each other
as God's own child is sent to heal and restore
a man loved, feared, hated and betrayed
in the midst of the chaos
takes bread and wine, gives thanks for the goodness of life
breaks it, pours it and shares it with those who will listen

This is my body, stretched out and broken for you
This is my blood, poured out and spilt for you
for you and for the earth,
that humanity might learn to trust rather than to fear
that earth might be restored...

that it might be good again.

[share bread and wine]

And God's resting was shattered once again
by a cry of joy from an empty tomb
by the dawn breaking through the clouds of a dull day
by new life bursting from the soil and flowers blossoming
by humanity learning to share and live in harmony with our fragile earth...
and God saw that it was very good!

©Clare McBeath & Tim Presswood, 2008