

## 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!

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