

# GROWING *Together*

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## THE WONDER OF CREATION

*“When the morning stars sang together, and all the angels of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7*

We go outside at night and our eyes survey the wonder of the heavens.

Modern science has given us a wealth of information about the physical origins of the galaxies, stars and planets. What thoughts pass through our minds as we stand outside on a clear night? How majestic is the sight before our eyes. How humbling to be reminded that the light from those stars, travelling 300 thousand kilometers a second, has taken thousands of years to reach us.



While many study the mysteries of the universe through telescopes, others turn to their microscopes to search the wonders of creation. The waters of a pond or stream can be magnified to reveal what appears to be another world. The telescope and the microscope enable us to explore the creation that surrounds us but our spirits yearn to search more deeply, to seek beyond physical knowledge and look for answers in the spiritual realm. It is here that we discover, through poetry and story, the true wonder which touches our hearts and our souls.

Almost every religious tradition possesses a creation story. The aboriginal peoples of our North American continent have many to share. The Lakota tell of a time long ago when an ancient creature, Kangi the crow, pleaded with the Creating Spirit for a place where he could find rest. So from his pipe bag the Creating Power selected four animals known for their ability to stay under water for a long time. Each one was asked to dive and retrieve a piece of mud; first the loon, then the otter and next the beaver, but all three attempts failed. It was then the turn of the turtle. He surfaced with mud between his claws. The Creating Power spread the mud over the water and it became dry land. And from the red, white, black and yellow

mud, the Creating Power made men and women, giving them his sacred pipe.

The mystery of creation led the Hebrew writers of our scriptures to seek many ways to express its meaning. So often we focus our attention only on stories told in the first chapters of Genesis, but there are other passages to be found, especially in the Psalms, the prophecies of Isaiah and the book of Job.

Within the Jewish-Christian tradition we are familiar with the words that follow the creation story in the first chapter of Genesis: *God saw every thing that he had made and behold it was very good.*

And in Psalm 8, verses 3 and 4 we read: *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses; who are mortals that you should be mindful of them.*

In Job 38, verse 4 we find: *Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.*

Everywhere we find this sense of awe and wonder. The God who created the earth and the heavens is much more than just a divine architect and builder. God shares constantly and intimately with all creation. The trees and the flowers, the fish, birds and animals, women, men and children - all who inhabit the earth, the skies and the seas, are known and loved by God.

We have been given the gift of life and the opportunity to enjoy what God has created. Here, on this earth, the material and the spiritual are truly joined. The glory of the Creator is seen with our eyes as it uplifts our minds and our hearts.



GROWING TOGETHER is a series of five Sunday bulletin inserts for the ecumenical education of Christ's faithful.

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