

Creation

In the beginning God made the world,
The overarching heavens and the teeming earth;
Made all that is
Out of an aching void,
Gave shape and form
To a seething mass;
Shone light into the deepest darkness
Penetrating its thick obscurity,
And God took pleasure from all that had been made.

In the beginning God made the world,
Covered its surface with water;
Punctuated oceans with dry land;
Revealed the shape of continents,
- the mass of Asia
- the curves of Africa
- the length of the Americas
- the Antipodes
- the Polar regions
- and Europe.

All were called into being by a God
Who took pleasure from all that had been made.

From the beginning God filled the earth
With everything that lives and breathes,
Everything that grows and sighs,
All that crawls, flies, swims or walks,
All that cries, laughs, sings or speaks;
God made them all, mothered and fathered them,
Cherished them,
And took delight from all that had been made.

Let us lift up our hearts
And give our thanks
For the splendour and the mystery of creation;
For the daily rising of the sun,
For the nightly rising of the moon,
For the life with which we share this planet.

Let us lift up our hearts
And give thanks
For our history,
For the factors that have formed us,
For the men and women who have moulded us,
For the great and the mighty,
- the makers and the shakers,
- the wheelers and the dealers;
And also for the forgotten ones of history, the unrecorded ones,
For all those roses born to blush unseen and waste their fragrance on a desert
air.

Let us lift up our hearts
And give our thanks
For the sheer variety of human life,
The spectrum spread of our ethnic groupings,
- the sound and idiom of the languages we speak,
- the insights of human culture,
- the wealth of people's experience,
The infinite diversity of the rainbow people of God.

Let us lift up our hearts;
And give our thanks
For those who still inspire and stir up hope;
- for prophets, martyrs and poets,
- preachers and philosophers,
- healers and peacemakers,
- rebels and reformers,
And everyone who goes on believing in good
Even when evil seems to flourish.

In the beginning, eternal God, you made the world
And all that is.
Today we acknowledge the miracle of creation
Not as an act trapped in the past,
Something accomplished with the fatal note of a historic finality,
But as a process that continues.
We rejoice that you still bring order out of chaos.
We pray that we may discern your creative presence

In our heaving, wonderful, suffering, glorious, tragic, many-spendoured,
pathetic world.

We pray that we may always remember

That our world is your world.

And as you have taken pleasure and delight in it

Since its very beginning,

So too may we.

We take the planet for granted. Scientists readily remind us that the creation story in Genesis is quite simply wrong. Within their own ways of reasoning their conclusions cannot be denied. But there are truths contained within the story of creation that make their own sense and must form part of the ecological discussion that must now dominate our thinking.