



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection May 9, 2021

This Sunday's readings (6th Sunday after Easter):

Acts 10:44-48: The Holy Spirit fell upon all those listening to Peter, including Gentiles.

Psalm 98: A song of celebration for the Lord from all of Creation.

1 John 5:1-6: Loving God means loving his children and seeing God's love in our love for each other.

John 15:9-17: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Sunday Reflections: *"And God looked upon all that He had made, and indeed, it was very good"* (Genesis 1:31)." *"Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord..."* (Ps 98:9)

"Awe, Study, and Finding Meaning"

In his book Forest Church Bruce Stanley asks "are we consumers and dominators of Creation or are we partners?" This question is a challenge for us to think deeply and honestly about our relationship with all of God's Creation, not just people. The Celtic Christian spiritual tradition engages the presence of the Holy Spirit, the divine, in all of creation. This is not to say we worship Creation - we worship the Creator!



The Forest Church movement encourages all Christians to practice the disciplines of Awe, Study, and Finding Meaning. Practicing Awe is taking time to experience God's presence in the natural world through all the senses. This practice inevitably leads to gratitude to God for Creation. Study of the natural world stimulates our mental curiosity: what kind of flowers are those? Can I grow them too? What can I do to help my local woods flourish? and so forth. The practice of Finding Meaning in nature helps us to discern our place and relationship to Creation and understanding of God's purpose for us. There is no prescribed path for engaging God in the natural world. But I wonder: maybe it is time that our communal and personal worship to move outdoors again as did our Celtic ancestors!

A Prayer

Divine Creator and Sustainer of our world, let us be like one of your angels to watch with gratitude the gifts of grace we experience on this earth. Teach us as the Psalmist says to joyfully sing your praises, and at the same time learn that we are part and parcel of all Creation. Please continue to be our heavenly Gardener so that we may live as you would have us live. AMEN

Special Prayers: for Mothers and Motherhood; for those undergoing medical care, especially John and Patty and a special child still in the hospital; for all government leaders, especially in our own country, that they make wise decisions for the welfare of all in their charge.

And may the peace which passes all understanding be with us this day and forever. Amen – Vance