

WELCOME! This is the second offering in our Summer Sabbath Series titled
“*A Fine Line*”

Last week we talked about “Seek: All Along the Line” – You can still access this through our Website.

But, This week we will “WONDER: A Lined & Weathered Face”

We hope you will take the opportunity to refresh this week and “WONDER”

The Summer Sabbath Series 2019: *A Fine Line* is written by Janice MacLean, Host of the Prayer Bench.

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2. WONDER: *A Lined & Weathered Face*

SCRIPTURE FROM GENESIS 1:1-5 & 2:4-7

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

1 When God began to create^[a] the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[a] swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Another Account of the Creation

In the day that the LORD^[a] God made the earth and the heavens, **5** when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, **6** but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— **7** then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground^[a] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

*"So YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth,
and blew into its nostrils the breath of life.
And the earth creature became a living being."*

Genesis 2:7

This is from "The Inclusive Bible"

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

The first universe story in Genesis 1 is a litany of days. The gifts of light, water, the dry land and green and growing things, the sun and moon, the creatures that fly in the air and swim in the water and the creatures that walk upon the earth, including us, the humans, come into being.

And it is good. It is very good.

The second universe story in Genesis 2 is earthy and intimate. Here streams of water are stirred up until the whole surface of earth is irrigated, and then so tenderly —

*"The Great God,
like a mammy bending over her baby,
kneeled in the dust, toiling over a lump of clay...
And we "became a living soul. Amen. Amen."*

(James Weldon Johnson, "The Creation.")

Human creatures arrive late in the 13.7 billion-year-old universe story.
How late?

If the Universe Story was scaled to one calendar year, the first humans walk on earth late in the day on December 31st. We are the newly created.

All our universe stories offer a glimpse of the "Originating and Sustaining Mystery," the favourite image of the Divine used by Diarmuid O'Murchu, who grew up on a farm in Ireland and writes about evolutionary faith.

God created the world in ecstasy and joy. Think about this.
Created in ecstasy and joy. Wonder about this.

The Divine continues to be present and incarnate in the created order.
God is not "out there." God is here among us, within us, within all.

God's Presence is enfolded into every element of life.
Into this intimacy, we are born and our life unfolds.
Here we are among all this glory.
We are made in Love. We are filled with Love. We are meant for Love.
We are "beloved."

Look in the mirror, look lovingly,
ours might be a lined and weathered face.
But make no mistake —
We are beloved.

PRAYER

*Prayer is ... Joining the in-breath to the out-breath
to the one-breath of the universe.*

Breathe and Pray.

— Hildegard of Bingen,
12th century Mystic & “Green” Theologian

PRACTICE “LAY IT ON THE LINE”

“Lay it on the line.”

To say or do something in a direct or honest way.

We are in a time that could be catastrophic or life-changing.

We are co-creating with the Divine the world we all want to live into.

We have to work at it, even at great cost.

*“In a world of more than seven billion people, each of us is a drop in the bucket.
But with enough drops, we can fill any bucket.”*

— David Suzuki

Act today to restore some damaged space: remove garbage, plant something,
eat a meal without meat, read or research faith and climate change,
promise to change one harmful behaviour—of yours or of your community’s.

After you have acted, allow your heart to fill with gratitude.

Pray. Write a poem. Journal. Sing.

What you offer is a fine line!