



April 27, 2021

Dear Friends,

As I pondered the majestic poetry that proclaims God as Creator – *In the beginning when God began to create the heavens and the earth...* – a thought kept surfacing: We are not separate from the earth and we are not merely connected to the earth. The earth is part of us and we are part of it. Literally.

**We drink the water.** Our bodies are 60% water. **We breathe the air.** The air provides are body with oxygen and our blood transports the oxygen to our cells. **We eat what the earth produces.** Food provides us with energy and builds our bodies.

As we ingest each of these, they become part of us. Without them, we quickly perish. So, when we care for God's natural creation, we are not nurturing an object that is distinct from us. When we care for God's creation, we care for ourselves and for each other. Of course, the flip side, is that when we abuse God's creation, we abuse ourselves and each other. It manifests in lead poisoning, high mercury levels, tumors, breathing problems...the list is long.

You may know that Genesis actually begins with not one, but two creation stories. The "younger" (or more recent) story actually comes first and begins with the opening verse of Genesis. The older and more primitive creation story, begins at Genesis 2:4b, and has a verse that reads: "The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

While we know that God did not scoop up dirt and create a living person like a potter would create a bowl, the imagery is a powerful reminder that the creation is not a distinct object separate from us. The earth is part of us and we are part of it. The word play in the Hebrew makes this even more apparent. The word for man is "adham" and the word for ground is "adhamah."

Take a few moments to breathe slowly and deeply. As you inhale, think about the fact that you are breathing in and exhaling out the air of God's creation. The next time you take a drink of water, be mindful that you are drinking moisture that has come from the ocean and the sky. At your next meal, be conscious of the fact that God's creation is nourishing you. Perhaps your experience will inspire you to pray a simple prayer like this:

*Wondrous Creator, may I be ever mindful that I am not separate from your creation. I am one with it. Amen.*

Blessings,

Gregory Knox Jones  
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

P. S. If you wish to join us for in-person worship in the sanctuary this Sunday, May 2, please [click here](#) to make a reservation.