

Earth Day Sunday#2—Loving Mother Earth
Genesis 1: 1-24 Romans 8:18-27

Ring Gong!—Urgent Message!

New U.S. Supreme Court ruling puts groundwater science at the center of decisions about how to regulate water pollution.

Less than a week ago, the court ruled that the federal Clean Water Act applies to pollution of underground water that flows into nearby lakes, streams, and rivers.

The case concerned a wastewater treatment plant in Hawaii, that used injection wells to dispose of four million gallons of treated sewage each day by pumping it into groundwater about a half-mile from the Pacific Ocean.

Some of the waste reached the ocean.

Environmental groups sued, calling it **“the clean water case of the century.”**

“This decision is a huge victory for clean water,” said Mr. Henkin, who argued the case on behalf of environmental groups. “The Supreme Court has rejected the Trump administration’s effort to blow a big hole in the Clean Water Act’s protections for rivers, lakes and oceans.”

Even the Supreme Court loves Mother Earth!.....Who knew?

Ring Gong! – News Flash! - Ozone layer hole over Arctic closes—confirm scientists

The largest hole in the Ozone layer above the Arctic has closed!

The hole was first identified by scientists in March (just a few weeks ago!!)

The Copernicus Climate Change Service—there he is! Good old Copernicus, still giving us new information—**THEY said**, “*The unprecedented 2020 northern hemisphere #OzoneHole has come to an end. The #PolarVortex split, allowing #ozone-rich air into the Arctic.*”

Remember the Ozone layer?—that region in the Earth’s stratosphere that absorbs the sun’s ultraviolet rays, shielding the planet from the harmful radiation which can cause

skin cancer. 50 years ago, scientists discovered that the ozone layer was being depleted due to human activities, thereby leading to a threat to life on Earth....

In March, scientists had noticed signs of a hole—the largest ever— forming in the Ozone layer above the north pole, posing an even bigger threat had it moved toward the south.

However, scientists have confirmed that the 600,000 square miles hole has healed. They added that the closing of the hole was not due to the reduced levels of pollution during the coronavirus lockdown. It is believed that the polar vortex, the high-altitude currents that are responsible for bringing cold air to the polar regions, is responsible for the healing of the layer.

Wow, the earth can heal itself?

That's what living beings do if they're given half a chance.

The Earth is a living being you know—just like you and me!

Ring Gong! Breaking Story in Progress!—pick up Bible.....

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

What if we started thinking of that as more than just an ancient story!

What if?— God's "*Let there be light*" were heard.....tonight?

Suppose "*Let there be waters above and waters below*" were a live streamed event?

What else would a God who can't be hushed up say?

The challenge to re-create at an unprecedented rate?.....

A higher conscious human—needs evolving!

Mother Earth is still revolving!

Saving our own species—a puzzle that requires solving!

Creation didn't just happen back in the day! It's on the agenda today!

And a world created by God's love—is re-created by higher thinking from above!

If we want it badly enough.

I mean, if the polar vortex—all on its own initiative—wants to fill in the big ozone hole in the sky.

And the forests?--want to breathe in as much CO2 as they can— so everything can stay cooled off....

...and the rivers that spill out of glaciers on top of the Rocky Mountains out west want to keep running across the Great Plains.

...and the possums want to keep trotting—and eating everything no one else would eat for the last 80 million years..

The bees want to keep pollinating...

The birds want to keep seed spreading....

The Big Bang wants to keep banging!

And God wants to keep creating—like—right now!

Let's get with the program!

I know! Things are quite chaotic right now!

But chaos is the energy that precedes creation!

It's the part in Genesis that's without form and void....

With a lot of darkness on the face of the deep....deep trouble we are now in.

Genesis means Birth!

So let's get birthing!

Mother Earthling!

Ring Gong!—Show and Tell!

Lately, I have been carving ham for the people who come in for the shower ministry to eat for breakfast—and then we have ham sandwiches to give out in the lunch bags during the week.

I've been using my grandfather's carving knife.

It's one of those spirit creates joy connections!

As children, my brother & I—shout out to you, Bart Bro in Canada—we spent a lot of time in hot and humid southeastern Ohio where both pairs of our grandparents lived.

It can get so hot and humid down there that—in July—even the bugs take a vacation.

But before air conditioning came in—and people who can't afford air conditioning probably still do this—they learned how to stay cool by going around and pulling all the window shades down on the east side of the house in the morning....

...and after lunch, they went around and pulled all the shades down on the west side of the house until the sun finally set.

We can adapt! We can learn!

There are little things we can all do to create and re-create ways to save ourselves and Mother Earth at the same time.

Walk more! Bike more! Loaf more! Drive less!

Save your own house, your own car, your own truck from fossil fuels. You're saving the whole world!

Any time you are using water—think about the people who have NO WATER.

No water at all coming out of a faucet. They cannot wash their hands for 20 seconds while they sing “Happy Birthday” to themselves.....It will change the way you think.

Ring Gong!—Climate Change Alert!

Worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide – the greenhouse gas most responsible for global warming – are forecast to drop 8% in 2020, a record annual decline that's due to COVID-19 lockdowns.. According to a report released Thursday by the International Energy Agency, the restrictions have caused a massive plunge in fossil fuel use

"This is a historic shock to the entire energy world," said Fatih Birol, the IEA executive director. "Amid today's unparalleled health & economic crises, the plunge in demand for nearly all major fuels is staggering, especially for coal, oil & gas. Only renewables are holding up during the previously unheard of slump in electricity use."

“It is still too early to determine the longer-term impacts, but the energy industry that emerges from this crisis will be significantly different from the one that came before,” Birol added.

Overall, however, the IEA said that the drop in emissions is nothing to celebrate.

“Resulting from premature deaths and economic trauma around the world, the historic decline in global emissions is absolutely nothing to cheer,” said Birol.

“An 8% cut in emissions is roughly equivalent to the annual emissions reductions needed to limit global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial temperatures, according to Carbon Brief.“However, the target laid out in the Paris Agreement requires similar reductions every year this decade, not just for one year.”

Like those *Inside the Easter Story* ideas you heard a couple weeks ago—universal basic income—universal health care—and child care and Yogi Berra type real cash grants for meaning creating artists—we need to make reductions in fossil fuel use more than just an emergency response to a plague.

Remember, even Moses didn't want it to come to a plague to liberate all of the slaves in Pharaoh's Egypt!

We can do better.

RING GONG (Pick up Bible again)

I want to mention—here at the end—we did not read this part of Genesis today!

But later on in the story, it says that God made humans in God's own image.

Wow!

That's another way of saying what Mohawk Chief Jake Swamp says: *“To be a human being is an honor.”*

It's Reepicheep the Brave Mouse's idea: **We aren't seeking things of use! We seek honor and adventure!"**

It's the Jesus message, “Leave self behind. Take up your cross—**that's honor!**— and follow me—**adventure!**”

It's the Martin Buber **I-Thou** discovery as he was petting his pony and he suddenly stopped thinking about himself and what he was doing, and he realized how wonderful his pony must have felt being petted by its loving owner.

We are relational beings. The earth and the sky are our loving parents.

So—Honor your mother and your father.....the Word of God for the people of God!

Rev. Scott Myers, Earth Day Sunday#2 Westport Presbyterian Church, May 3, 2020