

PRAY EVERY DAY April 19, 2020 Resource

You Are Created in the Image of God from Genesis 1:26-28, NRSV

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth..."

Hymn "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" by Charles Wesley

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

March 25 – April 14 "Fruit of the Spirit: Love"

April 15 – May 5 "Fruit of the Spirit: Joy"

April 20: Isaiah 52:8-10

April 24: Psalms 63:6-8; 67:3-5

April 21: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

April 25: Psalm 98

April 22: Psalms 5:11; 84:1-4

April 26: Psalm 30:5

April 23: Psalms 21:6; 51:7-9

Small Group or Personal Study

Pastor Joel is preaching a series on the theme of "temple." The temple (and tabernacle which was a "tent temple") theme runs through the Bible as a way that God dwells with us. A modern way of reading Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 is to look for how the earth was constructed, how long it took, what God made in what order. Probably the first way of hearing this text in ancient times was as a temple story wherein God created a temple, placed the image of God within it, and then settled in to rest and reign. In this ancient understanding: the earth is God's temple; humanity is created to fill the earth with the image of God and works of God; and God settled in after the creation of the earth to dwell and rule with humanity.

Read Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 as a temple story wherein God creates the earth to live with us.

- What does it mean to you that God created the earth like a temple as a place to dwell with us? How does the idea of the earth as God's temple impact how you view what this world is? Since the earth is God's, how are we to steward waterways, land, air, plants, and animals?

- Richard Rohr is a Franciscan teacher who shares a prayer exercise regularly in his travels. The exercise focuses on God's name in the Old Testament which is commonly written as "LORD" in English. In Hebrew, God's two syllable name is written as four consonants which are unvoiced and pronounced with breath alone, which using English letters looks like "YHWH." Richard notes that simply breathing in and out approximate the sound of God's name: "Yah-way." Richard teaches that breathing in and out can be a way of prayer and recognizing how God is already with us, gives us life, and shares with everyone God's name. Take time for silent prayer today and focus on breathing God's name in each breath.

Affirmation of God's Presence from Habakkuk 2:20, NRSV

But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

God's Resting Place from Psalm 132:13-16, NRSV

For the LORD has chosen Zion;

he has desired it for his habitation:

"This is my resting place forever;

here I will reside, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless its provisions;

I will satisfy the poor with bread.

Its priests I will clothe with salvation,

and its faithful will shout for joy.