

Earth Day Sunday/Year B
April 28, 2024

Benedicte Tongass: A Canticle for Southeast Alaska

(Words: Bonnie Demerjian, St Philip's, Wrangell)

Glorify your Maker, works of creation!

You sun and moon and clouds and winds,
constellations, curtains of shimmering light,
winter and summer, autumn and spring:
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

All mountains and valleys, muskeg and shores,
snowdrift and avalanche, drizzle and ice,
coastland, estuary, glacier and berg:
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

You cedar and alder, hemlock and spruce,
blueberry, salmonberry, strawberry, rose:
skunk cabbage silently ushering spring;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

Fireweed and paintbrush, wildflowers bright,
mosses and lichen, mushroom and fern,
yard flower, wildflower, seeds ripe and full;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

You deer and moose, porcupine, mink,
black bear, brown bear, land otter too,
carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, all;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

Newt and frog and boreal toad,
black fly, bumblebee, mosquito and wasp,
you algae and mildew, beetle and worm;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

Eagle and raven, kingfisher, wren,
barred owl, robin, sparrow and finch,
gosling and trumpeter, mallard and loon;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

Orca and dolphin, humpback and seal,
salmon and halibut, herring and crab,
scallop and sea star, bull kelp and clam;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise.

Now immigrant, native, refugee, guest,
worker and student, people of God,
home dweller, traveler, seeker of dreams;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise!

Pioneers and elders, descendants and youth,
martyrs and saints of years gone away,
angels at watch over homeland and sea;
proclaim to your Maker your thanks and praise!

All is good. It is very, very good.

Collect of the Day: *Called to be God's partners in the care of the planet*

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

1st reading: Creation *A Congregational Reading*

(Liturgy for the Whole Church: Multigenerational Resources for Worship, by Susan K. Brock)

IN the beginning, on the first day, God created the heavens and the earth. God said, “Let there be light” and there was light. And God saw that it was good.

Blessed be the God of light.

In the beginning, on the second day, God created a dome to separate the waters from the waters. God called the dome sky, and saw that it was good. ***Blessed be the God of Waters and Sky.***

IN the beginning, on the third day, God gathered the waters together and let dry land appear. God spoke, and the earth brought forth every color of green, and God saw that it was good.

Blessed be the God of Green-Brown Earth.

In the beginning, on the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars, to separate day from night, to mark the seasons. And God saw that it was good.

Blessed be the God of the Heavens and of Time.

In the beginning, on the fifth day, God created all the living creatures of sea and sky, and blessed them, and called them good.

Blessed be the God of Wing and flight, of Soaring and Swimming.

In the beginning, on the sixth day, God created the animals of the earth, and made humankind in the image of God, and God saw that it was very good.

Blessed be the God of our Hearts, the God of Flesh and Souls and Loving.

In the beginning, on the seventh day, God created rest, and entered into a rest from all the work that had been done. And God saw that rest was very, very good, indeed. ***Blessed be the God of Holy Rest and Play.***

The Word of the Lord...***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 33: 3-9; 13-15 *(read responsively at the whole verse)*

3 Sing for God a new song; *sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

4 *For your word, O God, is right, *and all your works are sure.*

5 You love righteousness and justice; *your loving-kindness fills the whole earth.

6 *By your word, O God, were the heavens made, * by the breath of your mouth all the heavenly hosts.*

7 You gather up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *and store up the depths of the sea.

8 *Let all the earth fear you; *let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of you.*

9 For you spoke, and it came to pass; *you commanded, and it stood fast.

13 *You look down from heaven, *and behold all the people in the world.*

14 From where you sit enthroned you turn your gaze *on all who dwell on the earth.

15 *You fashion all the hearts of them *and understand all their works.*

The Gospel: Mark 16: 14-15

Later Jesus appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table, and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.