

Sunday Service: June 28, 2020

"God's Good Creation: Randomness Within Order"



One year after Rabbi Harold Kushner's three-year-old son was diagnosed with a degenerative disease, Kusher asked the difficult question: "Why, God?"

Years later, he wrote a book about his experience and the doubts and fears that arise when tragedy strikes — *Bad Things Happen to Good People*.

Kushner also pointed out that the answer to his question, led to another question: "If the bad things that happen to us are the results of bad luck, and not the will of God, then what makes bad luck happen?"

Can we accept the idea that some things happen for no reason, that there is randomness in the universe? Some people cannot handle that idea. But why do we have to insist on everything being reasonable? Why must everything happen for a specific reason? Can we get along with a universe that still has a few rough edges yet to be ironed out?

YouTube Service on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwR3VIS3w48>

1. GATHERING



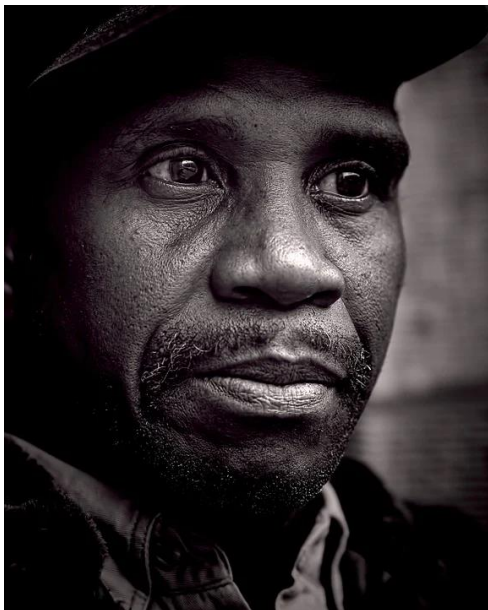
Musical Prelude: *Creation Song* by Josh Garrels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtHiVH2jswM>

Call to Worship (L: leader, P: people)

By Melissa Florer-Bixler

- L: “For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.” Isaiah 9:5
- P: In Minneapolis at the foot of the cross, your neck pinned under the knee of an officer.
- L: We are not as we ought to be, Whiteness whispers into cradles
- P: until later, by instinct, we can turn a phone call into a rope around a tree.
- L: When did we see you? Your back broken in a police van,
- P: Your neck broken on the sidewalk? When could you not breathe?
- L: When did we see you, shot in your bed? When did we see you, hung in a jail cell?
- P: Come grieving mother, weeping child.
- L: Come ministers of fire. Come priests of smoke.
- P: Come heat, come Spirit, turn gun and badge and night stick to ash.
- ALL: Come flame. Burn us away until we must begin again.



“To study history means submitting to chaos and nevertheless retaining faith in order and meaning.” — Hermann Hesse

“Any change is resisted because bureaucrats have a vested interest in the chaos in which they exist.” — Richard M. Nixon

Confession

By Clara Weybright

God, we lament the damage that our silence in the face of racial violence has done, for the sins of racism that run through our lives like so many threads in a cloth.

Forgive us for the times we have given in to our discomfort, for the times we have forgotten our own privilege and failed to stand with our black siblings.

Help those of us who experience white privilege every day remember that, with our privilege, we are imbued with the responsibility to challenge and hold one another accountable.

Give us the courage to educate ourselves, to listen well, and to use our voices when it is most needed.

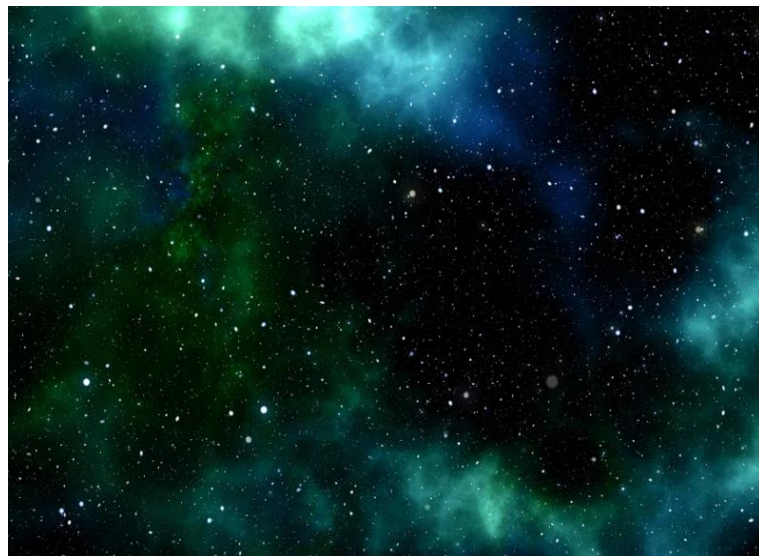


Music: *All Good Gifts* (from Godspell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMEUgcaVmzI>

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Selections from Genesis 1



“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep...

Then God said, ‘Let there be light;’ and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night...

So, God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome... God called the dome Sky...



And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' ...

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so...

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years...

And then God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ...

And God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Luke 13:1-5

Some who were there at the time told him about the Galileans, about how Pilate had mixed their blood with their sacrifices. He answered them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were the worst sinners in all of Galilee, because they suffered this? Hardly. However, let me tell you, if you don't have a change of heart you will meet your doom in the same way.

Or how about those eighteen in Siloam, who were killed when the tower fell on them—do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? Hardly. However, let me be clear, if you do not have a change of heart, all of you will meet your doom in a similar fashion."

Message: "God's Good Creation: Randomness Within Order"



"Chaos is inherent in all compounded things. Strive on with diligence."

— Buddha

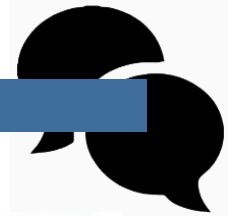
"Life is passion, celebration in the face of chaos, light in the face of darkness, hope in the face of despair, and joy, for the universe without life feels nothing, is nothing, and does nothing except slowly die." — Rick Tumlinson

3. RESPONDING TO GOD



Music: *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Audrey Assad)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asU005-nnDI>



Reflections and Responses

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for:

- Erin, who is starting her journey in Alamosa with Mennonite Voluntary Service, working at the Rio Grande Farm park
- Jenny's friend Matthew, who is free of cancer
- Denise and Bill's grandson Patrick, as he travels back to the U.S. from Wales
- Keith's mom, who just lost her husband
- Katy and Keith's sister-in-law Laura Price who is suffering from multiple myeloma and has complications with a compression fracture
- Russ' friend Cory, who had COVID in February and is still recovering
- Martha's sister Heather, whose husband Pedro is suffering from liver cancer



Praise for:

- Current judicial ruling to stop the gravel pit in LaPorte and prayers for the County Commissioner who will vote on the issue in two weeks
- Favorable rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding DACA and LBQTQ and ongoing prayers for those rulings

Closing: *Amen* (Soweto Gospel Choir)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUFoIJ9Vhko>

Post Service Conversation

Time to chat via Zoom!

"It is a law in the universe that a wave of spiritual awakening is always followed by a period of doubting materialism, each phase is necessary in order that the spirit may receive equal development of heart and intellect without being carried too far in either direction." — Max Heindel

