

Scripture for May 11, 2008

Pentecost

Reflection from John Surette, SJ

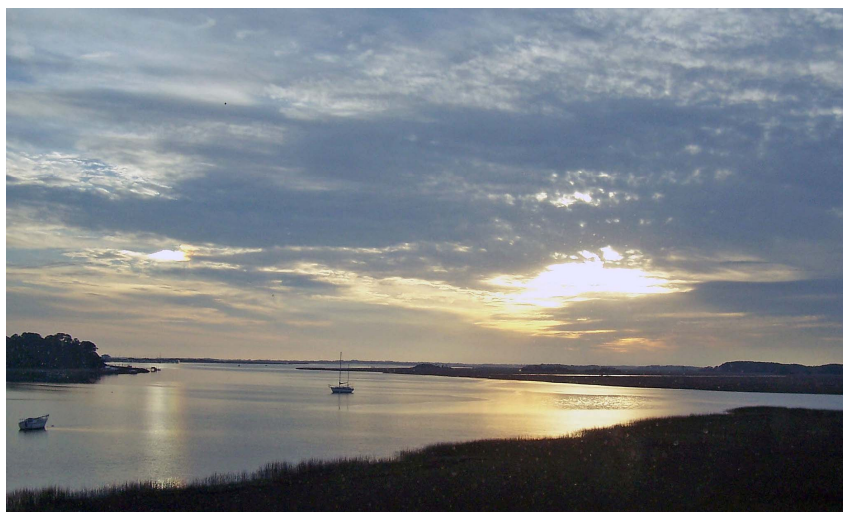
Creative Spirit

**“We believe in God... Creator of Heaven and Earth”
According to our Creeds, the first thing we believe about
what God does is that God creates.**

**According to our Scriptures, “Darkness was upon the face
of the deep and the Spirit of God was moving over the
waters” The first thing we believe about what God’s Spirit
does is that the Spirit moves over the waters and creation
comes forth. In other words, the Spirit of God is a
Creative Spirit.**

**God’s Creative Spirit was at work at the original flaring forth of our Universe
billions of years ago and was also at work when the earliest humans emerged
within the community of life here on Earth perhaps some two and a half
million years ago.**

**That same Creative Spirit was at work in the Pentecostal event a mere two
thousand years ago, an event that we remember and celebrate today: “And
they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different
languages...and they began speaking boldly about the mighty acts of God.”**



**Imagine that! Such
creativity coming from a
group of Apostles who, a
moment earlier, were “scared
stiff” about what danger was
lurking on the other side of
those locked doors.**

**Often in the past we thought
that the Spirit was to be
found in what is static, fixed,**

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and unchanging. And so we looked for the presence and activity of the Spirit in such places as unchanging rituals, laws, and traditions.

Today we know that we live in an evolutionary Universe. Now we can discern the Spirit present and acting in places where change is happening and where process, emergence, and unfolding are taking place...all places where creativity is obviously at work.

To give some examples:

Most people have seen some of those photos taken by the Hubble space telescope? God's Creative Spirit is a work

Consider how that same Creative Spirit is present and at work within a mother's womb as her baby is foaming into existence.

We have noticed the perseverance and determination of a child learning how to play a sport, soccer for example. The Creative Spirit is present and at work within that perseverance and determination.

We are quite familiar with the collaboration, the trials and errors, the compromising, and the creativity of a woman and a man who are seeking to build a life together. The Creative Spirit is present and at work in all their efforts to grow a rewarding relationship.

Some in the chapel this morning personally know about what is required in learning how to grow older gracefully. The Creative Spirit is definitely involved in that learning and that growing.

Consider all of our efforts to embrace the differences in the world, to reverence the depths of everyone and everything that participates in the great Mystery of existence, and to nurture community wherever it is to be found.

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God's Creative Spirit is at work in that embracing, that reverencing, and that nurturing.

Contemplate the magnificent outpouring of Divine Creativity over the billions of years of cosmic time. That Creativity is recorded in the rocks, in the trees, and in our human DNA. The Creative Spirit that gave birth to the Universe is within you and me this day, waiting to be accessed, waiting to be activated.

How desperately our Planet Earth and its human community need God's Creative Spirit to be released with its promise of abundance. "Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of Earth."

On this Pentecost Sunday we pray: Lord, release your Creative Spirit within all of us and re-create the face of Earth at this time of its withering.

Let the Creative Spirit be activated so that the many barriers that constrain us might be removed. Let it be released so that we might be set free to believe more deeply, to hope more ardently, to love more inclusively, and to live more creatively!