

SEASON OF CREATION – WEEK 4 - Sr. Jeanette Gaudet, mfc

CREATION WAITS FOR OUR PRAYER: *Sit quietly for a moment with your two hands in your lap.*



Open your dominant hand as if to receive something. Take your other hand, make a gentle fist and place it lightly in your stronger hand. Imagine being in God's hand and sensing God saying "I hold you in the palm of my hand." Relax, trust, surrender, rest, breathe deeply and let go of cares and concerns; feel freedom.

*Now this time open your non-dominant hand, and place the soft fist of God's life gently in your hand. Sense the feelings with God placing Godself in your care. Note your responses; what do you feel when God speaks to you of your care for our planet and everyone/thing in it. Tell God your response. **Creation waits with God for our response.***

Ireland is a country awash with green. In the countryside and churches, we often see Celtic crosses. The encounter between the Christian religion and Celtic tradition engendered a deep and distinctive **spirituality rooted in the goodness of creation**. In other western traditions there is often by contrast, a dualism of Christian thought, which prioritize spirit over matter, soul over body, heaven over hell. **On the other hand, Celtic Christianity emphasizes the sacred essence of all creation. Creation, like Scripture, reveals God's heart.** Yet humanity contributes to violence on creation daily. The subsequent dangers of climate change threaten life on earth. Recapturing the value that this spirituality places on creation—and our care for it—is of urgent importance for our world and indeed the future of humanity. The Celtic way of Christianity emphasizes the essential goodness of humanity, rather than the Augustinian notion of original sin. While acknowledging the existence of sin, Celts prioritize the goodness inherent in individuals; each bears the *imago dei* or image of God. "The presence of God's spirit in all things is what makes them beautiful....if we look with God's eyes, nothing on the earth is ugly" (*Letters of Pelagius*, 71).



This understanding of humanity has the power to tear down the walls that separate us from one another, both in our neighborhoods, in our divisive national politics, and in the global community. "The Celtic church did not so much seek to *bring* Christ as to *discover* Him: not to possess Him, but to see Him in 'friend and stranger'; to liberate the Christ who is already there in all his riches" (Ian Bradley, *The Celtic Way*, 75). This spirituality invites us to *slow down, to be contemplative, to cease from the brutal pace of the world that*

robs us of vitality and life. It offers a pathway to a deep connection to creation, to God, to others, and to our very selves.

God gave us planet earth not primarily as a garden in which to grow vegetables that sustain us, but a garden in which God walks, and **where we have been invited to walk with God**. We are placed in this garden of creation to share God's own creative wonder and delight, but also, at this critical time, to experience our Earth's cry, God's own people's cry and God's invitation to take action to save our "Common Home." God wants us to be a **NEW CREATION!** Check that non-dominant hand of yours for some possible answers! **Below are some websites that detail world efforts to advocate for the renewal of a healthy planet and healthy people.**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baLDRH3zKd8> Video/Hymn of Creation, arranged by Dan Forrest

<https://laudatosiacionplatform.org/about/> Info. -- The Laudato Si Action Plan

<https://thecatholicpetition.org/?source=email> Catholics called to sign a petition for a healthy planet and people

<https://ukcop26.org/> Info. -- upcoming UN climate meeting in Scotland