

## Awakening to God's call to Earthkeeping

### *Session Two*

#### God's Presence Fills all Creation

#### Psalm 65:12-13

*The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, the shout and sing together for joy.*

#### Opening Prayer

Holy and gracious Lord, we give thanks for the wonders, the mysteries, the blessings, and the beauty of creation.

Open our hearts, and attune our spirits, to your voice and presence as it flows through, sustains and fills all the earth.

Grant that we may come to know you more deeply, and hear more clearly, the ways that you call us to care for your good creation, and for one another.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

#### Reflection

**Question:** How would you describe or define "spirituality"?

Have you ever felt God's presence in creation or "nature"? When? Where? How?

Have you ever felt more spiritually alive or "awakened" (had an "epiphany") by an experience in nature

#### Opening Reflection-Ancient Teachers and Voices on Creation and God's Presence

1. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So, they say without excuse. **Romans 1-19-20**

2. Without the Word of God no creature has being. God's Word is in all Creation, visible and invisible. The Word is living, being spirit, all verdant Greening, all creativity. All creation is awakened, called, by the resounding melody, God's invocation of the Word. All creation is a symphony of praise to God.

**-Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)**

#### Martin Luther (1483-1546)

3. God wants to be praised for nourishing and cherishing, for God cherishes all creatures. God is not only the Creator but is also the Sustainer and Nourisher. **(LW 5:197)**

4. The power of God is present at all places, even in the tiniest tree leaf. **(LW 37:57)**
5. God's entire divine nature is wholly and entirely in all creatures, more deeply, more inwardly, more present than the creature is to itself. **(LW 37:60)**

**Question:** Have you ever heard of any of the quotes by Luther before?  
Do you find them surprising?  
What feelings or thoughts do they stir up for you?

### **In Summary**

What is God trying to teach us, though "the hymn of all creation"? "Other book" of scripture?

### **Closing**

**Psalm 19:1-4a**

### **Let Us Pray:**

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare your glory; the arch of the sky displays your handiwork. In your love You have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world robed in all its splendor. The sun and the stars, the valleys and the hills, the rivers, and lakes, all disclose your presence. The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might. The beasts of the field and the birds of the air bespeak your wondrous will. In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music of the world. The voices of loved ones reveal to us that You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation.

### **-A Jewish Prayer**

Help us, O Lord, to hear your voice more clearly! And let the people, say, **Amen!!**

**Source:** [ww.elca.org/stewardship/teaching](http://ww.elca.org/stewardship/teaching)

