

Living the Seasons at Home

June 7 – The Mountains Are Calling

Scripture readings

Genesis 1:1—2:4a (focus passage for today)

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

Matthew 28:16–20

Prayer

Pray for different parts of Creation this week, at the table or during a walk:
Thank you God,
for the light you give us,
for the water of life, for the bounty of Earth,
for the larger mysteries of the Universe,
for creatures above and below us,
for a kaleidoscope of characters. **Amen.**

Interaction

Visit an artist such as a painter, sculptor, potter, carpenter, or knitter this week. Ask to watch them at work quietly. Or visit an art gallery together. The Tauranga Art Gallery is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 10.00am to 4.00pm and has some interesting exhibitions. Visit <https://www.artgallery.org.nz/> for more information.

How does this artistic work reflect God's creative work?

Reflecting on the scripture Read Genesis 1:1—2:4a or the story “**In the Beginning**”

In the beginning there was nothing.
No up or down.
No near or far.
No yesterday or tomorrow.
Only God. Here. Now.

Then came the idea.
The idea came from God and was part of God,
yet it seemed to have a life of its own.

From that idea all things came to be.
Light and darkness.
Time and space.
Energy and matter.
Everything needed to make a universe.

God gathered them together and set to work.
Out of swirling gas clouds, fiery stars ignited with a whoosh.
Planets and moons spun together,
and galaxies danced like snowflakes on a winter night.

It must have been wonderful – dreaming, imagining,
making all those things that had never been made before.
God could see that it was all good.

The idea kept growing.
On the edge of one galaxy – a sun.
Whirling around the sun – a planet.
Small. Lifeless. Covered in dark waters.
Nothing special at first.

Then the breath of God came like a breeze
and ruffled the surface of the waters.
Something wonderful happened.
Deep in the seas, there was life.
Simple at first, but then more complex.

It was as if God could simply not get enough of dreaming up
new forms of life.
They filled the seas.
They walked on the land.
They flew in the air.
Flowers bloomed and insects buzzed.
The little world teemed with life and colour, scent and sound.

God looked at everything with delight.
You know how it is when you make something.
You picture it in your mind, but sometimes your own creation
can surprise you.

It was all so good – so wonderful:
lovely patterns hidden everywhere,
the cleverness of living things who rode on the wind and waves
to make their homes in every imaginable place.

God enjoyed every bit of it.
Day and night.
Light and dark.
Land and sea.
Sky and earth.
Sun and moon.

Maybe God even laughed out loud at the sight of dolphins leaping,
or birds doing funny dances to attract each other.
This is too good to keep to myself, thought God.

So God made another kind of living thing,
one even more like God than all the others.
This living thing could
love
laugh
delight in beauty
think
imagine
wonder
choose
maybe even have ideas of its own.

When God was finished working, it was time to rest.
Glad to be part of such a wonderful world, the new creature
rested too

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The first chapter of Genesis provides a creation story. Notice how
many times the phrase “it is good” appears in the scripture reading or
the word “delight” in the story “In the Beginning.”

What does this say about how God views creation?

How does your household care for God's creation to keep it good and healthy?

Idea for enjoying life

This week simply invites us to make something.

Consider pulling out arts and crafts supplies such as scraps of paper, ribbon, wood, cardboard, buttons, wire, and string.

Then create an imaginary animal or insect – a bug, giraffe, human face, bird, or wherever your imagination takes you.

Thought to take with you

Make a small sign that reminds everyone in the household that they have been made in the image of God, such as "I'm creative, like my Creator, who must be creative, 'cause look at me!" Put it in a place where all will see it each day this week.

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