



Wednesday Prayer

20th Sunday after Pentecost – Creation Learnings

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
Genesis 2:18-22

Things I learned as I was preparing this Wednesday Prayer reflection: the lessons for this Sunday bring up some really challenging topics – divorce in the Gospel lesson, creation of “man” and “woman”, humans “dominion over” all other beings, a woman as “helper”. Where to begin? Also recognizing I am reflecting on all this through my lens as a layperson, a woman who has been divorced and remarried, a lover of creation and eager learner to our Indigenous sibling’s relationship with the natural world, and as a feminist and aspiring ally.

I learned that the Hebrew word “ha-adam” was translated as “the man” in our English Bibles. Some say this could also be translated as “the human” or “humanity”. The ally in me thinks this is a helpful translation for my LGBTQ friends and family (and all of us), especially those who have been hurt by the church for living as their God-given selves. Viewing God’s beautiful creation as an opportunity to love all, respect all, protect all.

And finally, the Hebrew word “ezer” is translated as “helper” and has been too often used to assert a subordinate status for women. Ezer is used in the Hebrew most often to refer to God as Israel’s helper. Most definitely not a subordinate role. All these ways we put some people above others – these are just some of the ways we create vulnerabilities that open the door to abuse and exploitation. I pray that our words, our interpretations and our actions reflect what God intended for our world: Love for all humanity.

God our Creator, you made each one of us in your image. May we protect the vulnerability in each one of us and embrace all of your wonderfully created works. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

Join us Sunday, October 13 for a screening of [Screenagers Next Chapter: Addressing Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age](#) and come together to support young people!