

A FAITH FOR A WORLD ON FIRE

PSALM 8

APRIL 25, 2021

Psalm 8:1-9 (NRSV) O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? ⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Sermon Summary:

When we reflect on the message of Earth Day April 22, 2021 our faith compels the church to honor the God who created the earth as a means of honoring the earth. In fact, we believe we cannot fully praise God the Creator without intentionally honoring the earth God created. Our theology, or ways in which we understand and worship God, are intrinsically bound to our ecology (*e.g., the study of and understanding of our natural environment*). Nevertheless, we're living in world that is literally and figuratively getting hotter due to humanities' sins and disrespect for God's creation. The message of our text calls the people of God to an authentic faith committed to the stewardship and science of our planet as a means of honoring God. Such faith, is willing to take on big challenges knowing that God is bigger than any problems we face. With this faith we are Inspired to Look Way Up, we are Invited reach Far Out, and we are, Instructed to Look Deep Within. A Faith for a World on Fire speaks to the breadth and depth of the human experience.

Sermon Points:

- I. **Honor the Greatness of the Creator:** When we reflect on the greatness of God our creator, our problems seem small. God is great! Even God's names are paradoxical and often insufficient in describing God's awesomeness.
- II. **Celebrate the Grandeur of the Creation:** Look at the stars, visit the ocean, watch the sunset or experience the renewal of Spring and you'll see God at work in the earth. God speaks the languages of all of creation and God's fingers direct the great chorus of life.
- III. **Connect with the Giftedness of the Creature:** Why is God concerned with humanity? God has made us a "little lower" than God. Humanity stands out amid the creation as little gods and as such humanity is responsible for caring for the created order.

Discussion Questions:

1. What family traditions does your family have to celebrate God's Creation?
2. Talk about your favorite things to do in nature that connect you with God.
3. Do you believe sin has caused damage to the earth and environment? Explain.
4. What are the greatest challenges you're willing to take to honor the earth?
5. How does being described as a "little lower than God" inform your self-image?