

Prayer

On a Tour Group Sunday

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Prepared text of prayer

Let us be in the spirit of prayer,
aware that we have been gifted with life
not of our creation,
that we live at the far end
of a creative process spanning billions of years,
an extension of time beyond our capacity to comprehend,
evolving in a cosmic expanse of space
beyond our ability to imagine.

We have seen rugged mountain peaks
thrust heaven-ward by volcanic explosion,
issuing in a fiery river
that, after aeons of time,
became rivers of ice crushing all in their path.

All of this wonder would be beyond belief
except our eyes have seen the narrative
written in rock and ice and lake and rivers
and undulating oceans
stretching beyond where the eye can see.
In the familiar words of the song
brought to such beautiful expression by Louis Armstrong –
What a wonderful world!

And yet, when we have stood in awe,
amazed at our earthly home,
wondered at its wonders,
we have only begun to scratch the surface
of the miracle, wonder, glory and joy of life.
For we have not even begun to contemplate the beauty of the human –
the likes of us who have emerged in this creative process
billions of years in the making.

Here we are, conscious, aware –
reflecting on it all...
We have become the awareness of the cosmos,

the voice of that awareness,
creating poems that paint pictures with words,
writing music that lifts our spirits in worship
and sets our feet to dancing,
celebrating the wonder of it all.

And still we have only begun
to touch the depths of our human experience,
for we have not yet spoken of human relationship,
the human kaleidoscope
of faces, of languages, of body form and skin tone –
all this diversity but the manifestation of the oneness
that unites us in our common humanity.

We have experienced the beautiful reality of that oneness
in the diversity of those who have cared for us so well –
cleaning rooms, waiting tables,
creating the ambience of grace and pleasure of comfort.
The external differences fade
before the sparkle in the eye, the smile,
the appreciation of being well served and serving well.

And still there is more –
for we have experienced again the joy of communion –
knowing afresh the wonderful process
of the knitting of human bonds forming a new family
where there is appreciation, mutual care, affection, laughter
and a new circle of love.

These days have been too full, fully to take in.
We will relive them and their beauty,
and wonder will continue to wash over us.
How blessed we are!
How grateful!

And now we enter these final days –
still much to see, to do.
And yet home begins to beckon –
those we love, waiting for us,
and the routines of the ordinary days
that fill our lives with order and meaning.
For home and deep human relationships that await us there,
we are thankful as well.

Surely goodness and mercy have followed us
all these days and we dwell consciously

in Your presence, Holy Mystery,
from whom all emerges and to whom all returns,
a mystery for us come to expression
in the Word become human –
Jesus, who taught us to pray.