

East Hartford
Father's Day

Alice O'Donovan
Gen 1, Psa 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Wow!

It is good - yes it is very good to step back into the most fundamental truths of ancient scripture. And what is that foundational truth of the creation story? "In the beginning, God. In the beginning, God."

I invite you to take just a moment. Relax. Close your eyes and just breathe this truth into your hearts and souls. "In the beginning, God
In the beginning, God In the beginning, God Let this truth settle in to your scared place, into your tooooo busy place, into your tired place. In the beginning, God

Wow! Can you begin to feel the power, the enormity, the magnificence and the strength of that truth? How do you feel it? Is it "Wow!" like in fireworks? Or is it, wow - as in wonder and awe and a little fear?

Clearly, educator, attorney, composer, diplomat, lyricist, novelist James Weldon Johnson felt the "Wow!" of the story and its truth, "In the beginning, God..." So this accomplished writer turned to the discipline of poetry and speaking of the imagery in the idiom of the black south, told that ancient story into his poem, "The Creation" that Allen read for us this morning. TY

And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said,
"I'm lonely -
I'll make me a world."

I love the final stanzas of this poem.

Up from the bed of the river
God scooped the clay;

And by the bank of the river
He kneeled him down;
And there the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,
Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;

Wow!!

This Great God,
Like a mammy bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust
Toiling over a lump of clay
Till he shaped it in his own image;

Then into it he blew the breath of life,
And man became a living soul.
Amen. Amen.

Oh Wow!

Was it the story of Genesis, or was it the wonder of creation itself that
compelled the psalmist to create these words?

Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than heaven![b]

2 From the mouths of nursing babies
you have laid a strong foundation
because of your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.

3 When I look up at your skies,
at what your fingers made—
the moon and the stars
that you set firmly in place—

4 what are human beings
that you think about them;

what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?
5 You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.
6 You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—
7 all sheep and all cattle,
the wild animals too,
8 the birds in the sky,
the fish of the ocean,
everything that travels the pathways of the sea.
9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

Psalm 8 is I believe, the psalmist's "Wow!"

Friends, I want to ask: what calls forth your, O Wow- as in fireworks, and your "O Wow" as in the whisper of awe and wonder, and your "O Wow" when you are saddened or horrified?

When does the creation of God call forth "Wow" from you Allen, Sue, Dave, Rosemarie? - is it the birth of a child, the birth of your child? Is it the mountain splendor, the roaring of the ocean, the shade of the pine trees, the glory of the ice on twigs, the taste of a sun kissed strawberry or tomato? Is it the wrath of Hurricane Sandy or the love of the foal for its mother?

When does the creativity of God manifested thru some work of humankind call forth "Wow?" from you? In literature, or music, or architecture, or the kitchen, or the athletic field, or the operating room, or getting on the jet plane so you get to see the earth fall so far away as to become simply color, blue, green, brown, white? When does the image of God shine through you into the world? As you teach, love, forgive, garden, support, create, learn? Last week we honored lots of folks who lead and teach our Sunday School kids. Do you realize that the heart of God shines through you as you teach, as you love our little ones? "Wow!" Do you realize that God shines through you as you parent your own kids, as you are friend to a friend, neighbor to a neighbor. "Wow!"

Do you realize that everything, everyone that evokes “Wow!” is nothing less than some revelation of God’s very self? Every “Wow!” is evidence of the heart and the hand of God at work. “Wow!” means that our eyes are open, that we are seeing the hand of God at work” Ponder that truth. Savor it. Everything that evokes our “Wow!” is evidence of God’s presence, God’s work, God’s spirit moving in and among us. “Wow!”

Next question. After Wow! Then what? Does Wow! take you to “Thank you?” - better put - when does “Wow!” take you to giving thanks and praise to God, to worship and adoration?

When does “Wow!” take you to a place of confession? Remember the story of Jacob’s ladder? The night that in a dream he saw angels running up and down the ladder, he heard the voice of God. Do you remember what he said when he woke up? He confessed, “Surely God was in this place and I did not know it.” The story sounds like this in The Message.

GEN 16-17 THE MESSAGE “Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, “God is in this place—truly. And I didn’t even know it!” He was terrified. He whispered in awe, “Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God’s House. This is the Gate of Heaven.”

“Wow!” took Jacob to that place of worship, confession, adoration.

Where does “Wow!” take us? Does “Wow!” take us to a place of action? Of doing something or something more? To caring for the earth? To a place of deeper love for God and others? To a place of greater generosity, of deeper forgiveness of self or others?

Friends, when “Wow!” happens know that it is of God. Welcome the moment, the second of “Wow!” then let “Wow!” take you, let “Wow!” have its way with you for surely God is in the time of “Wow!”