

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Progressive in Approach and Christlike in Action!
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
OCTOBER 23, 2022

Humanity: Extinction or Evolution?

**Then YHWH answered Job from the heart of the storm:
"Who is this obscuring my plans
with such ignorant words?" Job 38:**

Musician: Marney Curran

Worship Team: Marney Curran, Andrew Slonetsky, Eric Schultz,
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Prelude: See What His Love Can Do, J.S.Bach arr. H.Foss

Prayer:

César Chávez's "Prayer of the Farm Worker's Struggle"

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;

So I will know my people's plight.

Free me to pray for others;

For you are present in every person.

Help me take responsibility for my own life;

So that I can be free at last.

Grant me courage to serve others;

For in service there is true life.

Give me honesty and patience;

So that I can work with other workers.

Bring forth song and celebration;

So that the Spirit will be alive among us.

Let the Spirit flourish and grow;

So that we will never tire of the struggle.

Let us remember those who have died for justice;

For they have given us life.

Help us love even those who hate us;

So we can change the world. Amen.

Reading: Job 38 -39 selected verses

Then YHWH answered Job from the heart of the storm:
who is this obscuring my plans with such ignorant words?

Hitch up your belt like the fighter you are;
now I will ask the questions and you will answer me!
Where were you when I created the earth?
If you know the answer, tell me!
Who decided its size? Do you know?

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning,
or told the dawn that its assignment for the day
was to grasp the edges of the earth and shake out its wicked?
When the dawn lightens things to a clay red,

Do you still want to argue with Almighty God?
If you have something to say, speak up!

Then Job answered YHWH:
"I am worthless; what can I say?
I'd better hold my hand over my mouth!
I spoke once, but I have no answer—
twice, but I'll say nothing more.

Then Job answered God: I know that you can do all things:
you have only to think something, and it is done.
"Who is this obscuring my plans
with such ignorant words?" you asked.
That was me. I've been spouting off
about things I can't understand,
about wonders beyond my experience and my knowledge.
"Listen now, and I will speak;
I will ask the questions and you will answer me!" you said.
Formerly I knew you only by word of mouth,
but now I see you with my own eyes.
And so I now take back all that I said,
and repent in dust and ashes.

The Inclusive Bible

Reflection on Humanity: Sharon Willan

Song: Praise the Source of All Creation

Alternative Lord's Prayer

As rendered by Mark Hathaway (www.visioncraft.org) based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz (www.abwoon.com - *Prayers of the Cosmos*, Harper & Row, 1990).

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**O Parent of the Universe,
manifesting yourself as generative energy,**

Bend over us and remove all that clutters our being
and set apart a place where your sacredness may dwell.

Fill us with your creativity, so that we may be empowered to bear
the fruit of your vision.

Then, moving to the heartbeat of your desire,
make us the embodiment of your compassion.

Drawing from the ground of our humanity grant that we may renew each
other with love, understanding, and sustenance.

Empty us of frustrated hopes and despair,
as we restore others to a renewal of vision.

And let us not fall into agitation, but save us from precipitous actions.

For you are the ground of the fruitful vision, the birthing-power, and the
fulfillment as all is gathered and made whole once again. Amen.

Blessing

My message of hope is this: you realize that we can win these wars,
that there is hope for our future for the health of our planet,
our societies, and our children.

Please believe that, against all odds, we can win out,
because if you don't believe that, you will lose hope,
sink into apathy and despair – and do nothing.

There is great hope for the future in the actions,
the determination and energy of young people around the world.
And we can all do our best to encourage and support them as they stand up
against climate change and social and environmental injustice.

Finally, remember that we have been gifted not only with a clever brain and
well-developed capacity for love and compassion,
but also with an indomitable spirit.

We all have this fighting spirit

It's no good denying that there are problems.

It is no shame if you think about the harm we've inflicted on the world.

But if you concentrate on doing the things you can do, and doing them well,
it will make all the difference."

Excerpted from *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams.

Postlude: Go Between God

OFFERINGS:

There are several ways to ensure that we are able to continue meeting our commitments.

You can mail in your offerings:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1035 Wayne Drive
Newmarket, On. L3Y 2W9

You can sign up to our Preauthorized Remittance Program PAR
contact our Treasurer Sharon Smyth who will guide you

You can go to Holy Cross' **CanadaHelps** page to donate just follow the link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36983>

E-transfer

You can now transfer funds via email to:
holy.cross.donations@rogers.com