

Children of the Universe John Denver

A heritage of vision was given to us all
to smell the rose's fragrance, to hear the songbird's call.
To watch the distant moonlight fill the coming of the tides,
to understand that life is more than always choosing sides.

And some have seen what can be seen of sailing ships and kings.
And some are given feet of clay and some are given wings.
Some must struggle just to breathe, some have a golden spoon.
And some will never leave the nest while some walk on the moon.

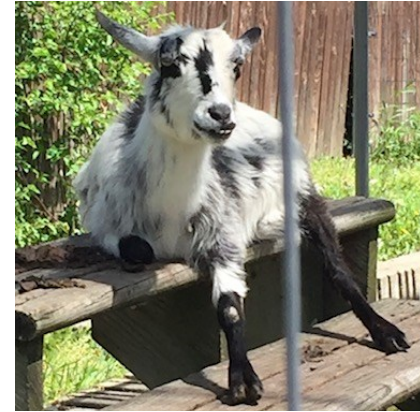
And don't you know the life that lives within the silent hills
is just as rich and beautiful and just as unfulfilled.
As man with all his intellect, his reason and his choice,
oh, who's to say the nightingale has any less a voice.

The silver dolphins twist and dance and sing to one another,
the cosmic ocean knows no bounds for all that live are brothers.
The whippoorwill, the grizzly bear, the elephant, the whale,
all children of the universe, all weavers of the tale.

So palomino, lie back down and dream yourself to sleep.
The hawk flies with the morning dove, the lion with the sheep.
As far away as you may go, we'll never be apart.
It's in your dreams that you will know the seasons of the heart.

Prayer Leader:
Betsy Nero
7 / 27 / 2021

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Everything is Connected...
Everything!



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~
Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

14812 Lake Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 | 216.228.7451
centeringspace@srs charity.org | www.centeringspace.org

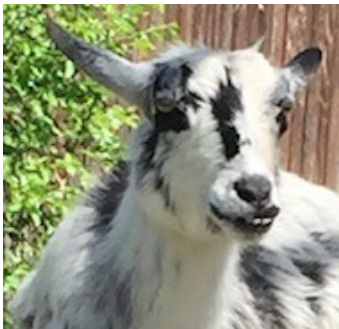
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To Ponder: *Laudato Si:*

On Care for Our Common Home Pope Francis

I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast...he was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature, and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace...all creatures are moving forward with us and through us toward a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator...

Thomas Aquinas wrote "God wills the interdependence of creatures. The sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow. The spectacle of their countless diversities and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other."



Reading: from Chief Seattle's letter

adapted in Brother Eagle, Sister Sky by Susan Jeffers

My mother told me,
Every part of this earth is sacred to our people
Every pine needle. Every sandy shore.
Every mist in the dark woods.
Every meadow and humming insect.
All are holy in the memory of our people.

My father said to me,
I know the sap that courses through the trees
as I know the blood that flows in my veins.
We are part of the earth and it is part of us.
The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

The bear, the deer, the great eagle,
these are our brothers.

The rocky crests, the meadows,
the ponies – all belong to the same family.

The voice of my grandmother said to me,
Teach your children what you have been taught.
The earth is our mother.
What befalls the earth
befalls all the sons and daughters of the earth.

This we know: All things are connected like the blood
that unites us.

We did not weave the web of life,
We are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...