



## **Meditation for Creation Season: Week One**

*'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth . . . when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? [Job 38:4, 7]*

This passage from Job, which is the text for Day #16 of the *Creation Care Bible Challenge*, has changed the way I read the creation story in Genesis that we are reading during this first week of Creation Season. Scholars have shown that Genesis is very different from other Ancient Near Eastern myths. The ease with which God speaks the universe into existence from a formless void, the blessing in the words *And God saw that it was good*, God's breath being the source of human life: each of these elements makes the Genesis story unique. But this passage from Job introduces a joy and delight at the moment of creation that is missing from the Genesis story.

God is teaching Job the difference between human understanding and divine vision in response to the question of why there is suffering in the world. God the Creator is not merely the God of Israel, ready to intervene during difficult times. Divine power is very different from the tyrannical power exercised by human rulers. We see that the purpose of divine power is to give joy, and that the essence of divine love is delight.

What must we do in order to recapture that delight? Yes, we must face the ways that human beings have endangered the fragile ecosystems of our planet. Yes, we must repent and change habits that exploit the natural world. Yes, we must remember that the universe is our "dominion" not because we rule over it but because its network of life-giving relationships is our home. But let us delight in the wonder of its very existence. Let us remember that we ourselves are made of the same stuff as the stars *singing together* at the beginning of time. Let us remember that the starting point for life itself is *all the heavenly beings shouting for joy*.

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