

St James's Piccadilly

Camino Companions

Session 4 - 21 & 22 January 2024

CREATION & EARTH JUSTICE



Psalm 145.9-21

⁹The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
¹²to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Job 38.1-18

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸ 'Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?

¹² 'Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³ so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal,
and it is dyed like a garment.

¹⁵ Light is withheld from the wicked,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ 'Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

"I would hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo, and if an echo sounded, no matter how faintly, I would send other words to tell, to march, to fight, to create a sense of the hunger for life that gnaws in us all."

— Richard Wright

"Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift."

— Robin Wall Kimmerer

"Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them.

Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life. Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer. Never take the first. Never take the last. Take only what you need.

Take only that which is given. Never take more than half. Leave some for others. Harvest in a way that minimizes harm. Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken. Share. Give thanks for what you have been given.

Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.

Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever."

— Robin Wall Kimmerer

Between now and your small group meetings:

Watch the Changing Our Minds first session, with Deborah Colvin and Shawn Sanford Beck (on the St James's website), and sign up for the rest of the series.