

CREATION

1 We have come from the kiln of your hand — unique, beautiful and good, yet unfinished. Our "unfinished-ness" is your way of asking us to be partners in our own creation. **Macrina Wiederkehr**

2 Next time you turn on a faucet and watch the water drops spill out, practice a moment of oceanic consciousness. See yourself as a single drop in the larger ocean of God's creation. **Barbara Bartocci**

3 The story of co-creation is the autobiography of every human life, both yours and mine. Responsibility for the world starts here, with you, with me. Life is not about traveling through. Life is about doing something that lasts beyond us, something that will, eventually at least, bring the world one step closer to completion. **Joan Chittister**

4 Amid the outcries for the liberation of this group or that, we will know that no person is free except in the freedom of other persons, and that man's only real freedom is to know and faithfully occupy his place - a much humbler place than we have been taught to think - in the order of creation. **Wendell Berry**

5 In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful. **Alice Walker**

6 There is a style, a divine style in everything that exists, which shows that it was created by the same artist. Everything is multiplicity within unity. Everything is both like other things and unique. Every individual thing has its own manner of being; it is that thing and not anything else. At the same time there are millions and millions of others like it, both minute creatures and immense stars. Everything has its own stripes, speckles, spots, dapples, veins, or grain--the caterpillar, the clay pot, the chameleon, the Klee painting and the Persian carpet, sea spray, stalactites, white agate veins in pebbles, the carpet of autumn leaves, wood, marble, sea shells, and the skeleton of the reptile. **Ernesto Cardenal**, in *Abide in Love*

7 There is a brokenness in creation that we all know. The wolf and the lamb do not yet lie down together. We swat the mosquito. We are wary of demons cut off from grace. And yet in a calm, trusting, sabbath mind, there is a sense of the promise that birthed Isaiah's pastoral prophecy of a peaceful creation. We accept the community that we can share now, and yearn for and somehow trust the promise of that full community of creation yet to come. **Tilden Edwards**

8 We are here to abet creation and to witness it, to notice each thing so each thing gets noticed. Together we notice not only each mountain shadow and each stone on the beach but we notice each other's beautiful face and complex nature so that creation need not play to an empty house. **Annie Dillard**

9 Modern physics has shown that the rhythm of creation and destruction is not only manifest in the turn of the seasons and in the birth and death of living creatures, but also is the essence of inorganic matter. . . .every sub-atomic particle not only performs an energy dance but is an energy dance; a pulsating process of creation and destruction. **Fritjof Capra**

10 A Sioux Indian Prayer

Hear me, four quarters of the world— a relative I am! Give me the strength to walk the soft earth. Give me the eyes to see and the strength to understand, that I may be like you. With your power only can I face the winds. Great Spirit...all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike. With tenderness have these come up out of the ground. Look upon these faces of children without number and with children in their arms, that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the day of quiet. This is my prayer' hear me! **Black Elk**

11 Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems. **Rainer Maria Rilke**

12 A Poem by Joy Harjo

Remember

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.

Remember the moon, know who she is.

Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown

and the giving away to night.

Remember your birth, how your mother struggled to give you form and breath. You are evidence of her life, and her mother's, and hers.

Remember your father. He is your life, also.

Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.

Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them, listen to them. They are alive poems.

Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the origin of this universe.

Remember you are all people and all people are you.

Remember you are this universe and this universe is you.

Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.

Remember language comes from this.

Remember the dance language is, that life is
Remember.

Joy Harjo, from her poetry collection, *She Had Some Horses*

For Reflection and Discussion

A What does creation call to mind? The natural world? Yourself? Other people? Art or artists? Are these thoughts and images related to your spiritual life?

B Does "co-creation" make sense to you? If so, how do you understand it as a concept and in your life?

C What would your theme be if you were asked to do a sermon on the theme of Creation?

D Consider writing to the creator (or to the universe itself) --perhaps a praise song, complaints, or a list of questions and mysteries you'd like some help with. Whether you write or not, think about what genres and themes you would choose.

E How does your experience at All Souls relate to your understanding and experience of creation?

--Mary Beth Hatem, for covenant groups at All Souls, Unitarian