



COP 27 November 16th Reflections

Today's reading from Luke, written centuries ago, is as if it were from this morning's newsfeed, and yesterday's, as well as the previous day's. Indeed, Jesus and all of humanity have reason to weep. We still do not know the ways of peace within ourselves, with one another and with the land we walk upon each day.

We have not recognized the visitation of our God in and through the Book of Creation. The disruption of climate change is not just a philosophical issue to discuss, nor is it a plan for an optimal outcome for the future. The urgency of what is happening to the soil, to the air, to the water and all the inhabitants therein is now upon us. No, actually, that statement fails to be urgent enough. What is happening to the soil, the air and the water is also happening within each cell of every living being. Can you not feel it in the air you breathe? Can you not witness it in the suffering of plants and animals and the ecosystems that supports them? Do you not experience this in the many photos we see daily of drought or fire-devastated homelands and the forced migration of peoples? There is an image of the veins of a leaf, resembling the tributaries of a great river, both of which resemble the flow of blood within our bodies. We are all interconnected.

Will there ever again be a time for singing new songs of praise, as the psalmist of long ago invites us? Yes. It will come when we no longer withhold our eyes from seeing the reality facing us and act accordingly. Imagine, then, the song when we, members of every language, race, and nation, having grieved what has been lost, together live the ways of peace.

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