HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD IN CREATION
Very early in the morning"
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
Psalm 19:1-4
The Law of the Lord is perfect refreshing the soul
Psalm 19: 7
There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all that makes him God. But since the beginning of the world, those things have been easy for people to understand. They are made clear in what God has made.
Rom 1:20
EARLY CHURCH FATHERS
Interest in nature by Church Fathers transformed the study of nature into a theological enterprise. The “Book” of Nature became a “bestseller” among clerics and theologians anxious for its knowledge in their search for divine truth.

Western Church: Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine
Saint Gregory the Great
Eastern Church: Basil, Athanasius, Gregory of Nazianzus and John Chrysostom
Why does nature exist?
Psalm 104 the “National Geographic Psalm”

You started the springs and rivers, sent them flowing among the hills
All the wild animals now drink their fill, wild donkeys quench their thirst....
Mountain goats climb about the cliffs
Rock hyraxes burrow among the rocks.
The deepest meaning of creation and creatures is their existence itself. God has chosen to communicate God’s very self in multitudinous and diverse shapes of beauty, love, truth and goodness each of which manifests another facet of the Divine
Richard Rohr

We are part of the web of life,
Created on the sixth day
Barricaded in our sanctuaries where stained glass windows prevent us from seeing the world outside, we are left with only bouquets of cut flowers as a reminder of Creation Paul Galbreath,
CLASH BETWEEN TWO WORLD VIEWS

Because of the clash between science and religion.... The “book of Nature” was almost lost to the Western Church.
How do we rediscover the book of Creation?
Is this new age?
Wisdom 13:1-5. the foolishness of nature worship
All people who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature
And they were unable from the good things that are seen to know him who exists. Nor did they recognize the craftsman while paying heed to his works
But they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air
Or the circle of the stars or turbulent water
Or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world
Not “everything is God” but God is in everything
CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

The sacramental principle

“All is holy”

Columbanus “If you want to know God, first get to know his creation.”
“THE WORLD IS OUR HOST”
Ecobishops
We believe that the voices of Indigenous peoples, whose relationship with creation remains integral to their spirituality and relationship with God, is of central importance to ongoing ministry on climate justice.
Reading the Scriptures with creation eyes

WWJD?

- Psalms as our song book
- Mark 1:13 “He was with the wild animals”
- Baptism
- Prayed on the mountain, preached on the lake
Water Crisis in Cape Town
Hear the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor
FUTURE

SACRED

FAITH

WATER

JUST ACCESS

COMMUNITIES

HOLOGISTIC

UNITY WITH

NATURE
Is it time for a reformation?
• Healing
• Reaching the unchurched
Now, in our time, these three rivers—anguish for our world, scientific breakthroughs, and ancestral teachings—flow together. From the confluence of these rivers we drink. We awaken to what we once knew: we are alive in a living Earth, the source of all we are and can achieve. Despite our conditioning by the industrial society of the last two centuries, we want to name, once again, this world as holy.

Richard Rohr
I believe in God the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth
Apostles Creed 1st Century
Praised be you my Lord through our sister
Mother Earth
St Francis of Assisi (1181 to 1226)
Any error about creation also leads to an error about God.
Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)
God also writes the gospel in trees and flowers, clouds and stars
Martin Luther (1483 to 1546)
If we learn to love the earth we will discover what it means to be truly alive

Teresa of Avila (1515 - 1582)
PRAISED BE YOU, MY LORD, THROUGH SISTER MOON AND THE STARS.
IN THE HEAVENS YOU HAVE MADE THEM BRIGHT, PRECIOUS AND FAIR.
PRAISED BE YOU MY LORD THROUGH OUR SISTER, MOTHER EARTH!

WHO SUSTAINS AND GOVERN US, PRODUCING VARIED FRUITS WITH COLORED FLOWERS AND HERBS!
PRAISE AND BLESS MY LORD, AND GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, AND SERVE THE LORD WITH GREAT HUMILITY.

AMEN.
SAINT FRANCIS
"God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."
Martin Luther