

Today, as you know is Earth Day...

Perhaps you know that the first Earth day was April 22, 1970.

It was an idea that was first imagined by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson shortly after the massive 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

He dreamed that it was to be a “national teach-in on the environment”.

He wanted to channel the energy

of the anti war movement into concern for the environment

so he enlisted Pete McCloskey, a conservative Republican as his co-chair, and Denis Hayes from Harvard as National Coordinator.

On then, April 22, 1970,

20 million Americans demonstrated for a clean environment.

By the end of that year, the EPA was established and the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species act were all created!

Yet, looking around us at this moment in time, some 48 years later

it seems as if Senator Nelsons’ idea of gathering the collective energy of million of peoples to learn, to protect and nurture the well being of Earth is losing out to corporate greed and individual short sightedness.

It seems we are at risk of losing what we have gained,

but...yet...as Vaclav Havel once said:

Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well,

but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.

Taking care of our home, the planet Earth...

understanding the interconnectedness of all creation

honoring, respecting and working for the thriving of the whole Earth community makes immense sense for the thriving of the human community..

**We know that clean air and water is essential not only for the survival of birds and fish...
but for all of humanity...**

**We know that soil which is nutrient rich produces healthy and abundant food...
and that is good not only for humanity,
but for all those creatures who create and live in the soil...**

**We know that to have some wilderness, some natural areas for our children and for
ourselves to walk barefoot in the grass, to touch a tree,
to feel the lapping of the oceans wave wash over our feet warmed by the sun
are some of the essential experiences of being alive!
These experiences enrich our lives, relax our minds, and enlarge our hearts,**

All of this makes enormous sense...and so...Hope continues .

**Unfortunately, to speak frankly, the Judeo Christian tradition has been partly to blame
for Human arrogance and attempted domination over Nature.
What has been interpreted as ‘subdue and dominate’
has led to clear cutting forests,
blowing off mountain tops
and poisoning our soil and our seas...
For this we must ask forgiveness and begin to make amends.**

**And so the Great Work goes on,
the Great Work of learning to love deeply and broadly...
to include all of Creation in Loving and our living...**

**Helen Keller, I believe, once said: We will not save what we do not love.
Who cannot love the sight of majestic mountains,
the riot of color in a field full of wildflowers,**

the morning chorus of song birds awakening to a new day...

Robert Schuller said, in our reading today,
that we should all become farmers of ideas about God...

Victor Hugo once said:

“There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come.”

Well folks...the time has come

to live as if we actually believe about who or what God really is...

We say that we know that God is not a super human being
disconnected from life, sitting up on a throne some where above the clouds.

We say that we believe that whatever God is,
God is the Source and Sustainer of everything that is...

and so the time has come for us to actually live what we claim to believe:

that God is Love...

that God is everywhere,

that God is in everything,

The time has come to Live as if we not only Loved all of humanity,
but to Love ALL of Creation...

Jesus knew that Love was the most powerful force in the Cosmos.

He knew that Love was not simply a feeling or a thought,
but also THE power of Life that enabled Life....all of life

He knew, He lived and he died in the truth that

Love is the ground of our being,

the reason for our living,

and the destination of our dying...

Love is the Alpha and Omega and everything in between.

So, my friends, on this Earth Day 2018,

Let us take the time to fall in Love with Earth,

Let us take the time to fall in love all the beings of Earth:

the ones with fins, the ones with feathers and fur and the ones who walk on two legs...

Let us take the time to fall in love with oceans and rivers, dry deserts

and old growth rain forests...

Let us fall in Love with stars and galaxies

and teeny, tiny little critters.

Let us fall in Love with our family and our neighbors and

to truly, deeply understand that the whole Cosmos, indeed is our neighborhood!

In order to help us rekindle our Love ...

I would like to show you a very brief 3 minute video...

of course, Let us never forget to say “Thank you” for being alive.