

## PSALM 65: 9-13

- <sup>9</sup> You, O God, visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.
- <sup>10</sup> You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.
- <sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
- <sup>12</sup> The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
<sup>13</sup> the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

One of the wonderful things we find in the psalms (and other parts of scripture too), is how God and creation are intertwined. In this psalm, God is depicted as a gardener or farmer who “visits the earth and waters it,” greatly enriching it. God provides the people with grain and works to ensure crops grow and bear rich and plentiful produce. And in response to all this abundant fruitfulness, the earth “shouts and sings for joy.” This joy is expressed in the abundant growth and produce itself, but it also points to the reciprocal relationship between God and creation. God engages creatively in all the growth and the earth responds by producing the harvest.

This reciprocity of activity, however, is not just work or labour. It is also joy. There is a language and communication between God and creation we as human creatures can only behold from the outside. We see and benefit from the fruitfulness of the earth. We, too, must work the land to live off of it. But we are also invited to hear in the tangible fruitfulness and growth shouts and songs of joy expressed by the earth to the creator who is actively engaged with the earth in what is produced. God and the earth are a partnership of love.

So where do we humans fit into this relationship between God and creation? Sadly, Given the state of our earth's eroding health due primarily to human abuse and neglect, we have obviously not engaged in a reciprocal relationship of love with the earth. Our technologies and lifestyles have been designed in total oblivion of how any of it impacts the earth. Earth and all its creatures have not been invited to participate in the creativity of human technological and industrial development. Add to that a growing secular mindset where we humans and what we want become God and what is the result? God and the earth are grieving rather than shouting for joy.

So then, how do we attune our hearing to the cry of the earth and its creator? How do we change our lifestyles so we can find our richest joy in the flourishing of other life on this planet? Scientists, activists and indigenous peoples tell us there is a small window of time. Unless our spirits develop a special kind of hearing and a readiness to act, future generations will decry us and we will have to give account before eternity for our ongoing complacency and oblivion.

PRAYER: Wake us up, O God... in this time of pandemic, this time of climate change and climate crisis... wake us up as we approach this 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas limiting our togetherness and travel because of a new covid variant... We need to be challenged, O God, but we also need some comfort... We need to be awakened, O God, to our responsibility for other life, but we also need assurance that you carry us even when we fail and fall because we are afraid or overwhelmed or helpless... We need to believe resurrection and new life are possible even as we need to be accompanied in our quiet sadness... Don't give up on us, O God... We have a destiny yet to fulfill. Make us present in this moment and time of our lives... Open us up to the gift of Christmas, which is love. Love is only real in relation to other life. Open our hearts to change and compassion for the sake of love... In Jesus' name; Amen.