

September 12, 2021

# HUMANITY SUNDAY

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

Earth has hope in what is possible when all of creation lives in partnership with God. In times together and times apart, we celebrate with all Creation.



The Season of Creation invites us to affirm our kinship with everything God has created and is creating, acknowledge our role in the climate crisis, and strive for a future that is free from past ways of harm and destruction.

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Humanity Sunday calls us to listen again for humanity's relationship with Earth, Earth creatures and the Creator and consider how humans do not always live with respect in Creation.

## Earth Beings

**Genesis 1:26–28** continues the narrative begun last week. The verses describe the creation of humanity, spell out human responsibilities, and introduce metaphor and suggestions on the relationship of Creator to human and human to Creator.

**Listen** to the audio story "[Made from Love for Love](#)" or **gather** around as someone tells the story below.

After Creator God created light and sky, oceans and land, plants and trees, lights for the day and the night, creatures to fill the water and the sky and the earth, God said, "Let's have humankind, made of our own essence. They'll care for the creatures in the water and the sky and on the earth, and be cared for by these same ones, sharing together this life banquet."

And so it was. The Creator gave them genders, unique bodies, diverse personalities, and all with one spirit. Seeing the beauty of their souls was like looking in a mirror. The Creator blessed them, and said,

*Fill this world with life, as I have filled you with life.  
Love your brothers and sisters, every creature and plant.  
You were made from love and for love.  
May love be your being and your doing.*

The creation of humans should not be seen as separate from other elements of Creation. Rather, human beings were created as a part of an overall plan that included stars and rivers, animals and trees, nighttime and day, as well as people. We are intrinsically part of God's world, and called to be God-like in our care for Creation. As God cares for even the minute details, so are we called to care for each thing, large and small.

- **Discuss ways you are showing compassionate care.**

## Watch, Listen, Make

**Watch and listen** as Michelle Yeoh reads [Lotus and Feather](#), a beautifully illustrated and animated story about a girl who nurses a crane back to health. We watch as their friendship grows – a love "that was their being and their doing."



In the creation story in Genesis 1:26–28, Creator asks the newly born human to “fill this world with life, as I have filled you with life. Love your brothers and sisters, every creature and plant. Let their hearts reflect my love for all Creation.”

- **Why had the cranes stopped coming to the lake?**
- **How did Lotus and Feather bring life back to the lake?**
- **How did their hearts reflect love?**
- **Why did the children’s feelings about Lotus change?**

**Make** a car litter bag.

There are many ways we can love Creation. One way is to collect our litter rather than throwing it on the ground. Follow the directions here to make a litter bag.

### Activity sheet

**Print** “[Earth Is Amazing](#).” As you decorate the picture, give thanks for this amazing Earth.

## During the Week

- **Write a letter to yourself, telling everything you appreciate about you, inside and out.**
- **Take time to sit in the presence of other people, plants, animals, stones, bodies of water, specialized habitat. Learn their names, preference and preferences, habitats.**

### Prayer

*You might begin the day or the evening meal with this prayer. Have a different voice lead each time.*

**ONE:** Praise for tree, star, and ocean.

**RESPONSE:** God’s creation.

**ONE:** Praise for child, teen, adult, and elder.

**RESPONSE:** God’s creation.

**ONE:** Praise for sun, snow, and rain.

**RESPONSE:** God’s creation.

**ONE:** Praise for creatures finned, winged, and hooved.

**RESPONSE:** God’s creation.

**ONE:** Praise for cell, molecule, and atom.

**RESPONSE:** Praise for all of God’s creation.

**Listen to the song “Pulsing Spirit”**  
(MP3 available [here](#) for purchase and download).

**Visit [Lecture Connection](#), September 12,**  
for current events that connect with this week’s scriptures.

