

<p>The world's creation</p>	<p>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty.</p>	<p>First Day</p>
<p>And God created light and darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."</p>	<p>Second Day</p>	<p>God made the sky.</p>
<p>Third Day</p>	<p>God made the land and the sea.</p>	<p>God created the plants and the trees.</p>
<p>Fourth Day</p>	<p>The sun, the moon and the stars were created by God.</p>	<p>Fifth Day</p>
<p>God created the animals of the waters: fish.</p>	<p>God created the animals of the sky: birds.</p>	<p>Sixth Day</p>
<p>God created the animals on the land.</p>	<p>God created mankind.</p>	<p>God said to the man: Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.</p>
<p>I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.</p>	<p>Seventh Day</p>	<p>God rested from all the work he has done.</p>

Reference to the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

I. The Natural World

The whole creation belongs to our Lord and we are responsible for how we use or abuse it. Water, air, land, mineral resources, energy reserves, plants, animals and outer space are supposed to be respected and protected because they belong to God's creation, and not only because they are useful for humanity. God entrusted us with his Creation for us to responsibly administer and form. We fulfill these housekeeping duties through respect and loving care. Economical, political, social and technical development have helped the growth of humanity; they have prolonged and enriched our lives. Unfortunately, these developments have led to deforestation of whole regions, dramatic extermination of whole animal and plant species, tremendous human sorrow, overpopulation, excessive consumption and abuse of natural and non-renewable resources – especially by the industrial countries. This continuous behavior jeopardizes the natural heritage God has given to all generations. We see our responsibility that we have as church and church members and believe that changes in our lifestyle are necessary. That is the case for the economical and political, as well for social and technological domains. We want to strive for a more ecological treatment of God's Creation that is influenced by the principle of sustainability to achieve a higher quality of life for everyone.

Psalm 104 – God's praise out of the Creation

1 Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. 2 The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent 3 and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. 4 He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants. 5 He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. 6 You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. 7 But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; 8 they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. 9 You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth. 10 He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. 11 They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. 13 He waters the mountains the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work. 14 He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth: 15 wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts. 16 The trees of the Lord are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. 17 There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the junipers. 18 The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the hyrax. 19 He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. 20 You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl. 21 The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. 22 The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens. 23 Then people go out to their work, to their labor until evening. 24 How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. 25 There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small. 26 There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. 27 All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. 28 When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. 29 When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. 30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. 31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works— 32 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke. 33 I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. 34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord. 35 But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the Lord, my soul. Praise the Lord.

My Creation Leporello

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
First the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night. He made the sun to govern the day and the moon and the stars to govern the night. And God saw that it was good.

This was the fourth day.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And he saw it was good.
This was the first day.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”
²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, and every winged bird, the big ones and the small ones. And God saw that it was good.

This was the fifth day.

And God said: „There shall be a blue sky above the earth.”

This was the second day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures” . God made all the creatures that move along the ground. And God saw that it was good.
Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness” .
So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.
God blessed them and said to them,
“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. All of them will be yours to care for.
God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

This was the sixth day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.”

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it. There should be flowers blooming and fruits ripening” And God saw that it was good.

This was the third day.

By the seventh day God rested. He said:
“I finished everything. Now I will rest”
Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Once a week, mankind was supposed to be glad about his Creation.

This is how God created heaven and earth.

The Beginning

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, ^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that

move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Walk for 4 minutes without talking. What can you see? What do you perceive? Can you see everything God has created?

What do you like in particular? Discuss it with your partner.

What didn't you notice so much?

~~When can you see a danger for God's creation? When wasn't it protected/treated well?~~

Walk for 4 minutes without talking. What can you see? What do you perceive? Can you see everything God has created?

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We want to make an effort for a more ecological treatment of God's Creation that is influenced by the principle of sustainability to achieve a higher quality of life for everyone.
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