



TED TALKS EARTH CARE EDITION

Rev. Nate Sell, May 3, 2020
First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC

Good morning! For the next few weeks we will be focusing on Earth Care for our Ted Talks Sunday School Series. Let's begin with a prayer:

Gracious God,

We thank you for this new day, for the beauty of the earth, for all things bright and beautiful. Help us to learn to be good stewards of your creation. Help us to learn humility. Help us to seek your Way, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

1. Read Job 39:
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+39&version=NRSV>
2. Watch:
https://www.ted.com/talks/kenny_coogan_vultures_the_acid_puking_plague_busting_heroes_of_the_ecosystem#t-124263
3. Read the following quote by Ellen Davis, biblical scholar at Duke Divinity on Job:

“What God says, in effect, is this: ‘Look away from yourself, Job; look around you. For a moment see the world with my eyes, in all its intricacy and wild beauty. The beauty is in the wildness, Job; you cannot tame all that frightens you without losing the beauty.’ God calls this man of integrity to take his place in a ravishing but dangerous world where only those who relinquish their personal expectations can live in peace. The price of peace is the surrender of our personal expectations, which are always too small for the huge freedom built into the system. **The great question that God’s speech out of the whirlwind poses for Job and every other person of integrity is this: Can you love what you do not control?**”

-from Getting Involved with God.

4. Ask yourself:
 - a. How does Creation teach us to love what we cannot control?
 - b. How have we tried to control Creation to our own detriment? (One example: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1962/06/16/silent-spring-part-1>)

- c. Is this a fitting way to understand our relationship with God? Can you love what you do not control? What about our other relationships?
 - d. What, in creation, do you see as repulsive or non-essential (like the Ted Talk's vulture?) How do you think God sees that creature?
 - e. What would it look like for us to show more humility when it comes to our relationship with Creation?
 - f. How is such humility taught in our Christian faith?
5. Bonus! If you haven't already listened to this sermon by Bill McKibben (recommended by Rev. Keith Dove) please do!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gelni_BwjGw