



# Resources & Reflections Week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>

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## REFLECTING ON CREATION

To make suggests making something from something else, the way one might make wooden boxes out of wood.  
To create suggests making something out of nothing, the way we might create a painting or poem.

It is true that the artist, like the carpenter, has to use something else – paint, words – but the beauty or meaning is different from the material he makes it out of. To create is to make something essentially new.

When God entered the Creation, he made something where before there had been nothing. As the author of The Book of Job puts it, "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" at the sheer and shimmering novelty of the thing.

Every 24 hours, using the same old materials of earth, air, fire, and water, God creates something new out of them. If you think you are seeing the same show all over again seven times a week, you're crazy.

Every morning you wake up to something that in all eternity was never before and will never be again. And "the you" that wakes up is not the same as before, and will never be the same again.

Frederick Buechner

## "A BLESSING FOR EQUILIBRIUM"

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,  
May the music of laughter break through your soul.

As the wind wants to make everything dance,  
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the freedom of the monastery bell,  
May clarity of mind make your eyes smile.

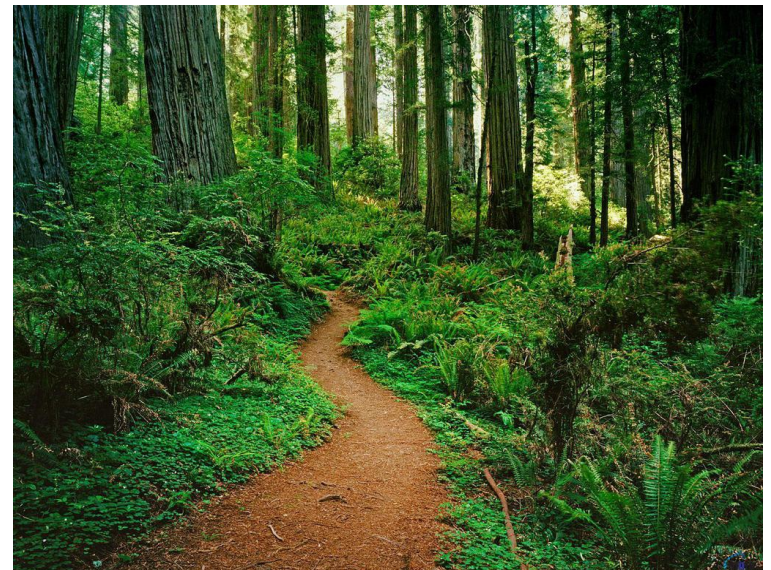
As water takes whatever shape it is in,  
So free may you be about who you become.

As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,  
May a sense of irony give you perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,  
May fear or worry never put you in chains.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough  
To hear in the distance the laughter of God.

John O'Donohue  
Benedictus -- A Book of Blessings



# A WEEK OF SCRIPTURE READING

## **Sunday** - **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
An Epistle Reading: Romans 9:1-5  
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

## **Monday** - **August 3**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 62  
The Gospel Reading: Mark 8:11-21

## **Tuesday** - **August 4**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 12  
The Gospel Reading: Mark 8:22-33

## **Wednesday** - **August 5**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 96  
The Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34 - 9:1

## **Thursday** - **August 6**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 116  
The Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-13

## **Friday** - **August 7**

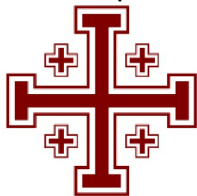
Psalm for the Day: Psalm 84  
The Gospel Reading: Mark 9:14-29

## **Saturday** - **August 8**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 63  
The Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-41

## **Sunday** - **10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** **August 9<sup>th</sup>**

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,45  
An Epistle Reading: Romans 12:9-21  
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28



*If the mail is slow,  
We provide you with  
a start on the new week.*

# ORDINARY PEOPLE

Just ordinary people,  
God uses ordinary people.  
He chooses people,  
just like me and you,  
who are willing to do what he commands.  
God uses people that will give him all,  
No matter how small your all may seem to you, because  
Little becomes much,  
As you place it in the Master's hand.

Just like that little lad,  
Who gave Jesus all he had.  
How the multitude was fed  
With the fish and the loaves of bread.  
What you have may not seem much,  
But when you yield it to the touch,  
Of the master's loving hand, yes,  
Then you'll understand,  
How your life could never be the same.  
Just ordinary people,

God uses ordinary people.  
He chooses people,  
just like me and you,  
who are willing to do what he commands.  
God uses people that will give him all,  
No matter how small your all may seem to you, because  
Little becomes much,  
As you place it in the Master's hand.

Danniebelle Hall (1938-2000)



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