

May 25, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I don't know about you but when I start or try something new, I can get twisted inside - filled with anxiety and fears that the effort will fail. Nobody likes to fail. But sometimes with a lot of prayer and quiet time with God, the Spirit encourages us to press forward - regardless of what the outcome might be - even though we know we might fall splat!

And so it was for me this Eastertide with stepping out of my comfort zone and into 'Creation'. Would I find enough topical hymns for each Sunday? And all the topical prayers? *The Bible* is a big book! Would the Spirit lead me to appropriate Scripture to focus the message on? Would the congregation find comfort or be challenged? Would the series draw us closer to God? Would the box that we try to put God into be exploded so that we could more easily see God in everything?

As I write, this Sunday will be the final worship in the series; The Cosmos: The Cosmic Christ. It is my joy to report to you that I have been energized, challenged, and amazed with this whole endeavor. Yeah, I realize that some of the hymns were not familiar - but the words, the lyrics were incredibly important.

I feel that this endeavor has helped me grow spiritually, theologically, and in my faith. God has been faithful in the smallest of details. Doing this series has caused me to practice what God has encouraged me to preach: "Do not be afraid! Trust God. God is faithful."

New Days - by John van der Laar
Just when it seems that all is lost,
that our brokenness, our failure, has gone too far,
You call a new day to dawn.
Just when it feels like hope is foolish,
that darkness and despair are the only true realities,
You call the sun to rise.
Just when we think we're alone and abandoned,
that life is nothing but pain and emptiness and meaninglessness,
You arrive among us again.
God of Advent and of Restoration,
we praise you for every new day that absorbs the darkness;
for every rising sun that calls the night to end;
for every messenger of hope and forgiveness
that baptizes us with your love.

Pastor Peggy