A few months ago, a friend lent me their copy of David Suzuki’s autobiography. It provided many insights into the remarkable life of one person who has inspired and encouraged millions of people to change our relationship with Earth.

In the final chapter, David Suzuki writes about his atheism and, in cosmic terms, the insignificance of his life. I wasn’t bothered by the atheism, especially as he didn’t define that problematic term. But a life of cosmic insignificance did leave me troubled.

Did you notice that our reading from the Hebrew Scriptures this morning did not include verses 26 and 27. We started at 25 and read down to verse 1. Verses 26 and 27 include the creation of Homo sapiens. Today, it is Planet Earth Sunday and it is Earth, in and of herself, that is celebrated in this sacred Jewish and Christian poetry.

God declares that Earth is good.

Light, sun, moon and stars...are good!

Waters and the sky, sea life and birds...are good!

Dry land and land creatures...are good!

Earth's creation myth is not just a nice preamble to the creation of human beings.

Earth's creation myth is about Earth herself.

In the Season of Creation, we are invited to see Creation - and Earth herself – as living, dynamic and creative expressions of the Spirit of Life. Of Divine Presence.

The late Barry Leal makes this point in one of his books. Barry wrote:

“It is not just our Earth that is being degraded. It is God’s Earth that is being despoiled.”

In words from the contemporary prayer from Iona we heard:
“the rocks pulsate... Turn but a stone and an angel moves.”

In our second reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, the literary creation which is “Job”, the protagonist is being given a very hard time – mainly by Satan, but with Yahweh’s permission, and Job’s so-called ‘friends’.

Job is wondering who can he listen to in this time of suffering? And so, we have that stunning passage from chapter 12. Job is asking himself: who can I listen to? The text gives the answer:

“Ask the animals, and they will teach you; ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Ask Earth, and Earth will teach you.”

Ask Earth, and Earth will teach you.

Earth is alive – Erath is interconnected – but Earth is not well.

Earth is now the prophet. The prophet pleading with human beings.

Earth, the prophet, is saying STOP destroying my forests.

Earth, the prophet, is saying STOP polluting the air that I need to breathe.

Earth, the prophet, is saying STOP exploiting my fossils for your electricity.

Earth, the prophet, is saying STOP degrading my oceans with your plastic.

Earth, the prophet, is saying STOP.

David Suzuki may, or may not be right about our cosmic insignificance.

But he is right to call individuals, communities and governments to a new relationship with Earth. David Suzuki calls it a "sacred balance".

This balance deeply respects Earth – not as an object for us to use.

Not even, I think, an object for us to walk ‘on’, but to walk with Earth.

As people of faith we are called therefore to walk with Earth. To respect Earth. To listen to Earth. To be partners with Earth herself.

Praise be to Earth!

Praise be to Divine Presence in all of Life!

Amen.
References:


Walk Gently: listen and download Kitty Kallen, Kitty Kallen, Jack Pleis Orchestra â€” Gently, Johnny, Gerry & The Pacemakers â€” Rock Me Gently, Gerry & The Pacemakers â€” You'll Never Walk Alone, Bobby Rydell â€” Break It To Me Gently & more. Threadneedle Street 03:43. Walk Gently on the Earth 03:50. All songs from Walk Gently. Other albums. Kitty Kallen, Kitty Kallen, Jack Pleis Orchestra â€” Gently, Johnny 02:25 I'll Walk Alone. Gerry & The Pacemakers â€” Rock Me Gently 03:34 You'll Never Walk Alone - Best of. Gerry & The Pacemakers â€” You'll Never Walk Alone 02:40 Rock Me Gently. Bobby Rydell â€” Break It To Me Gently 02:40 Walk Into The Woods. Peter Alexander â€” Walk Gently 05:05 Vayu, Breath Of Devotion. Walk Gently. 24:52. 3. We are part of the Earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters, the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices of the meadows, the body heat of the pony and man all belong to the same family. The Earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the Earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons and daughters of the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. ~ Chief Sealth. Ins Music Videos. Earth Is Our Home. 18 views. Dave Kinnoin and Michael Angel / Cool Thing. The Care Of The Earth (Music Track Only). Dave Kinnoin. 12.