

Devotion, Week of August 18, 2024

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Stars and moons and cosmic wonder. From now through December, we are going to have four “super moons,” which will look bigger than normal due to their closer orbit to the earth. I love these kinds of moons – orangish and huge at the horizon, and then still big as they ascend into the sky. It reminds me of all the rest of what I can see in the night sky.

Our first lesson in our new Sunday School book is about Colossians and hope, and it starts with a discussion about the cosmos – the realm of the sky that we can only look at in awe. Debbie Durden showed us a photo her son in law’s father took with a telescope camera of a galaxy that looks like an angel. The Hubble space telescope has produced unbelievable pictures of the sky, that we never imagined before. When we go back to Genesis and think about God creating light from chaos, and then creating the moon and sun and stars, I am thunderstruck by the images we now can get from deep space. It’s nothing else but a miracle – a beautiful miracle where we are reminded that we are tiny little dots in such a universe. And yet God made us in God’s image.

Colossians says this about Jesus:

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

If Jesus is the image of the invisible God, and we were made in God’s image, then we were made in the image of Jesus. And that means that God, who created this cosmos of which we are a tiny little part, loves us beyond our imagination. Enough for us to be thankful for creation and to look into the heavens and be overwhelmed with what God has done. We are made from stardust but we are also made with joy by a creator who loves us. What a gift to be connected to the image of Jesus and all those uncountable galaxies and star systems out there in that world God tamed from chaos.

Jeanne