

WE ARE CO-CREATORS WITH GOD TO BRING ABOUT SHALOM

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷So, God created humankind in God’s own image . . .

Hopefully, we have all learned along the way that “dominion” does not mean God has simply turned creation over to us to do whatever we wish for our own desire. Rather God has entrusted us as stewards to care for God’s creation. To say it even more profoundly, God has made us co-creators. That is not simply a responsibility but an incredible honor. That God would entrust us to not only care for God’s creation but to participate in bringing about God’s desire for creation – shalom.

That call is evident in the life and ministry of Jesus who proclaimed in the synagogue after his baptism,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. (Luke 4:18-19)

In the waters of our baptism, we have been anointed with the Spirit and as followers of Jesus, we have been sent to *proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal* (Luke 9:2) just as the early disciples were. The words spoken first by the prophet Joel and then by Peter on the day of Pentecost reveal our identity and calling today:

“In the last days it will be, God declares, I will pour my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams. “ (Acts 2:17)

Anointed by the Spirit we are called to not only dream God’s dream of shalom, but to participate in that dream as co-creators. The draft [Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith](#) describes this calling as “robust civic participation” and “acting as channels of God’s concern for human life.” (page 5). And the draft also points out that civic participation or as named above, to be “co-creators with God necessarily involves matters of government and political life. Government and political life are part of the daily bread we pray that God will provide in the Lord’s Prayer – *daily bread includes everything needed for this life such as food and clothing . . . an **orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace, and health** . . .* We know that God provides without our asking, that God is already at work in the world providing shalom. The question for us – **will we accept the invitation to be co-creators with God?**

Questions for Reflection:

1. Have you ever thought of yourself as a co-creator with God? How does claiming that identity change your perspective on yourself and the things you do or don't do?
2. What does "robust civic participation" look like in your life? In the life of your church's ministry?
3. How has the Spirit anointed you? With what gifts? To do what ministry?

Prayer:

Creator God, who lifted up the mountains and formed the dry land; whose hands shaped us out of the dust of the earth; who formed the soils and made this earth a place of beauty and abundance. We give you thanks for the gift of the land. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

(All Creation Sings p. 47)