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Hope and Healing for All

Restoring and Redeeming Creation

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One thing I have learned from my 20 years directing Hollis Renewal Center is this: Nature Wins. No matter how many trails we create, if not hiked and maintained, in a couple of years the forest reclaims those trails into its body. No matter how many times I seem to dig up Poison Ivy around the residence, there is a new crop the next year. An Eagle Scout created a primitive camping site even before I came to Hollis...it is sometimes an effort to find it in a vibrant spring as we are having.

Nature wins, if left alone.

I know there are places in our world deeply scarred by human activity. We hear the voices of creation crying out and we cannot simply leave Nature alone. We must act as God's agents for change and be that touch of grace and healing.

You are invited to click the image below for a meditative video to play while reading this devotion.



Dakota Road's Song of Praise, "Praise to You", seems to echo the words of Amos 5:24, "*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*" During our stay at home orders I have learned this: maybe all our empty churches ARE the message of the gospel. Maybe we have cooped up Jesus all these years in our churches and the simple message this Easter season is:

He is not here.

Jesus has risen out of our comfort zones, out of our dogmatics, out of our cultural rituals. Jesus is risen. And nothing, not our traditions, our feelings, COVID-19 or even death will have the last word. We are learning to be church without buildings and seeing Nature breathe a sigh of relief.

Hope and breath of every life
We are lost and we are longing
Hope and breath of every life
Hear the cries of all creation
Hope and breath of every life
May we live your way of justice
Hope and breath of every life