

“Inspired to Inspire”

Psalm 8, Proverbs 8 1-4, 6-14, 20, 27-31, Romans 5 1-5

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God is three distinct, unique persons who love each other, glorify each other, and rejoice in each other perfectly making God one. Each person of God participates in all that God is and does and each person takes the lead on particular tasks. God is Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer.

The psalmist sings of our Creator. **Psalm 8 NLT “O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you. When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents. O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!”**

Each of us is created in the image of God, therefore each of us is creative. You have unique creative gifts. God is continuing to create with you. Your creativity is expanding the glory, majesty, and wonder of the cosmos.

God is gracious and has given us the entire creation to love. Our creator God has made us stewards, the care takers, of creation. We are designed with the ability, together, sharing our creativity, to enable every aspect of creation to flourish. We are invented to make the majesty of the cosmos grandeur by adding our own unique creations. We have embraced this aspect of being creative and have filled the earth with marvelous creations. We are in desperate need to let God’s grace change our corporate, all of humanity, treatment of creation. Our treatment of creation is horribly wrong. Instead of caring for creation, we consume and use creation. Our loving care for creation is to mirror God’s loving care for us. How are you expanding your love for creation? What is your next masterpiece that you will give to the cosmos?

Proverbs tells of our wise Sustainer. **Proverbs 8:1-4, 6-14, 20, 27-31 NLT “Listen as Wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice! I was there when God established the heavens, when God drew the horizon on the oceans. I was there when God set the clouds above, when God established springs deep in the earth. I was there when God set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when God marked off the earth’s foundations, I was the architect at God’s side. I was God’s constant delight, rejoicing always in God’s presence. And how happy I was with the world God created; how I rejoice with the human family! Listen as Wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice! On the hilltop along the road, she takes her stand at the crossroads. By the gates at the entrance to the town, on the road leading in, she cries aloud, “I call to you, to all of you! I raise my voice to all people. Listen to me! For I have important things to tell you. Everything I say is right, for I speak the truth and detest every kind of deception. My advice is wholesome. There is nothing devious or crooked in it. My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those with knowledge. Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold. For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it. “I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment. All who love the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech. Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine. I walk in righteousness, in paths of fair impartiality.”**

Each of us is constantly being filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Life is sustained by the Holy Spirit filling our lungs with breath, our minds with thoughts, and our heart with love. God’s glory flows into us and overflows glorifying others. Each of us is inspired by our wise Sustainer to inspire others. God designed each of us with ever expanding capacity to inspire others to goodness, to greatness, to wonder, to majesty, to love, to rejoice, and to be in turn inspired by other. The Sustainer fuels us with energy and abundant life. The Sustainer enables us to unite with the cosmos, to sink into love, to bask in joy, to invigorate us to live fully

alive, to shine. Living fully alive inspires others, glorifies God and is worship. The Sustainer reveals the glory God has woven into us and gives us courage to share. The Sustainer attracts us, unites us with God and attracts us to each other uniting all people. The Sustainer beckons us to explore that which we cannot explain. The Sustainer is the logos, word of God, communicator. Whenever you understand another you have been blessed by the Holy Spirit. The Sustainer rejoices and delights in you and in creation. Whenever you play, rejoice, and delight you have been blessed by the Holy Spirit. The Sustainer declares creation is good. Whenever you perceive goodness you have been blessed by the Holy Spirit. Wisdom calls us to be nourished at the banquet and nourish others; to drink living water and be living water, to follow the light and shine, to be yourself and appreciate others who are being true to their self, to be inspired and inspire others. How are you being inspired? How are you an inspiration to others?

The Apostle Paul writes about our Redeemer. **Romans 5:1-5 NLT** “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with God’s love.”

Jesus our redeemer is grace in human form. Jesus knows everything about us and loves us completely. Jesus feels our pain and wipes away every tear. Jesus hears our cries and soothes us. Jesus perceives our fear, worry, and anxiety and gives us peace. Jesus takes on our disease and heals us. Jesus is with us in our messes and cleans all. Jesus identifies our hate and turns hate back to love. Jesus weeps over our shattered relationships and mends every relationship. Jesus sorrows over our brokenness and makes us whole. Jesus redeems everyone and everything. The cosmos is filled with redemption reminders, light follows darkness, rhythm follows chaos, spring follows winter, butterflies emerge from chrysalis, plants emerge from seeds, energy comes from sleep, work emerges from sabbath. When we are stuck in difficult seasons, Jesus beckons us to journey on, or let Jesus carry us, for Jesus will always get us to a glorious season.

Jesus is our gracious Redeemer. We are redeemers for each other. It is impossible to redeem through judgement, by telling another how to live or by legislating. The only way to change another is to change yourself, to change how you relate to another, to keep changing yourself until you discover a way that they can accept and experience your love, then someday love will redeem them. Sometimes one’s love for a person has no affect on them until their resurrection. Redemption happens from grace. Grace is the free and unconditional gift of love. Problems, troubles, trials, pain, disease, tears, suffering is never sent by God, yet God will redeem them all. How are you being redeemed. How are you redeeming others?

Listen again to the Apostle Paul describe our Redeemer from the Message translation. **Romans 5:1-5 MSG** “By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with God, make us fit for God—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that’s not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that God has already thrown open God’s door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide-open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise. There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we’re never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!”

God is peace in the persons of Peace Maker, Peace Liberator and Peace Binder. Robert Mitchum describes peace of mind as “becoming the person I always wanted to be.” God makes peace. Peace of mind flows from knowing yourself as a creator, sustainer and redeemer, knowing that you are a beloved child of God, knowing that no matter what you do or fail to do, God will always love you completely and God has a glorious eternal future for you. Peace of mind is shattered when we dwell on our mistakes, failures and perceived deficiencies, when we compare ourselves to others, judge ourselves and let negative thoughts tell us that we are anything other than a gifted, talented, needed, cherished, beloved child of God. God is the Peace Maker who

constantly washes away every mistake, purges every negative thought and keeps putting a renewed and right spirit within us. We are unable to make peace with our self, so God graciously makes peace for us. When we try to make peace, we become a slave to the law, are beaten down with doubt, paralyzed by fear and wander aimlessly. God constantly renews our peace.

God is a peace Liberator. Experiencing the peace of God, the Peace Maker, enables us to receive the peace of God the peace Liberator. God sets us free from worry and anxiety. As we experience more and more of God's peace, we become confident that God will get us through every season and redeem every season. This peace is not dependent on circumstances, rather depends on the love of God to transform everyone and everything. Even during trying times and horrible circumstances we experience peace and are resilient because we are confident God's love will change everything and endure forever. This is not optimism, positive thinking or faking it until things get better, it is receiving God's peace that keeps one calm in the midst of the storm. It is sort of like a medical worker who is calm as they perform lifesaving care. Their confidence in their training, their focus on the task at hand, their experience that the care they are providing has saved others, keeps them calm enabling them to work at a high level. God the peace liberator sets us free from panic, stress, anxiety, and worry through our confidence in God, our focus on love, and our experience that love is transforming all.

God is a peace Binder who is binding all people together in joyful loving harmony. God the peace Binder continually reminds us that all people are equal, our siblings, so we can let go of trying to elevate our self through works or put down another through judgement. God the peace Binder enables us to see the goodness and glory in every person binding everyone together with compassionate love.

God is Poet, Musician, and Artist. God is Poet who expresses love through each of us and throughout the cosmos. You are a love note from God and are surrounded by love notes from God. God is Musician who invites us to dance with God, to dance with joy, grace, peace, wonder and glory, to dance with each other. God is Artist who is the inspiration behind every goodness, the painter of life, the potter of transformation, the weaver of harmony, the sculptor of grace, the builder of eternal glory, the designer of joy, the drawer of color, the inventor of hugs, the craftsperson of fragrance, the chef of taste, the performer of awe, the animator of laughter, the assembler of beauty, the illustrator of majesty, the photographer of love, the illuminator of peace. You are inspired to be inspiring. Amen