

Sermon Outline - Sun, August 28, 2022 – New Roots in Nature – Franklin Park
Be Inspired – Isaiah 40:3-5; Job 12:7-10; Psalm 95:1-7

Keyword Summary –

Overview – This is our last week of New Roots in Nature but hopefully it has reminded you or inspired you to spend more time connecting with God in natural spaces. This Sunday we are also participating in an art project called Wilderness Project that allows us to reflect on what we have been learning and experiencing over the last weeks.

Exegesis

- Nature is God’s first testament before language was codified and writing accessible to people, folks saw God in the natural world.
- Given that we are going to practice an ancient tradition called Lectio Naturae
- Many have heard of Lectio Divina associated with a way of reading scripture in order to connect more deeply with God and invite the Holy Spirit to bring new revelation not from a place of logic but from a deeper place of mysticism.
- Lectio Naturae is first documented as the practice of St. Anthony the most lauded of the Desert Fathers
- “My book, philosopher, is the nature of created things, and as often as I have a mind to read the words of God, it is at my hand.”
- This afternoon we are invited to find God in this place – these 500 acres of land in the middle of a city.
- We will spend most of our time in this practice which has three parts.

Key Points - **Those things which sustain us are a gift from God – but we have to put some work in for them to grow. There are three main roles we have**

- 1. Slow Down and Pay Attention** – Everything around us tells us to move so fast. The first part of this practice is slowing down to really observe where we are and all of the things happening around us.
- 2. See the Imprint of the Creator** – Take the time to see God’s imprint. Recognize God’s matchless creativity in the space that you are in.
- 3. Reflect on how you might be called to respond** - If these spaces are a measure of God’s will and design, how are you called to respond in relation to where you are ?

Questions –

1. What natural being or space do you feel called to? Take a moment to really observe it - What do you see? Hear? Smell? Touch?
2. Where do you see God’s fingerprints in this space? What makes it beautiful, unique, inviting, etc.
3. What are you called to do/be as a result of being in relationship with this space? What is it telling you about where you might need to pay more attention in your life?

Write a prayer, poem or proverb that captures what you experienced in your time.