

All Nature Sings | Psalm 104

The world will never starve for want of wonders; but only for want of wonder. Tremendous Trifles, G.K. Chesterton

What sort of God creates all this?

He's great.

He's good.

He made this for *our* delight.

- Everything is drinking its fill (vv16-18) in ecological harmony and in total dependence on God (vv20-23, 27-28)
- And he made this for us to *join him* in delight (v31, 34).

How many your deeds, O LORD, all of them you do in wisdom. All the earth is filled with your riches. v24 (Alter)

For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. Romans 1:20

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. Psalm 19:1-2

Creation is an invitation to follow its metaphors all the way to the Giver of every good gift.

Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? Matthew 6:26-27

All this activity comes to be through the power of his breath, the inhaling and exhaling of God.

While God breathes, we live (v29-30)

Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

...For you are dust, and you will return to dust. (Genesis 3:19)

For he knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust. (Psalm 103:14).

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:21-22)

While we breathe, we sing, together with him (v31, 33-34).

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him; I will rejoice in the Lord. (vv33-34)

How do we grow in wonder as singers and participants?

1. Pay attention like a poet by intentionally focusing your eyes.

Pied Beauty by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1877)

Glory be to God for dappled things –

For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;

For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;

Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;

Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.

"The hardest thing of all to see is what is really there." (J.A. Baker, *The Peregrine*)

What is capturing your attention, your imagination, your meditation (v34)?

What is hindering your ability to focus?

What are you willing to resist so that your focus is on the Creator?

2. Pray "Terraform our hearts so we cultivate gardens"

May sinners vanish from the earth and wicked people be no more...v35

Jesus bears this on himself. He is not only Maker. He is Mender. (Romans 8:18-26)

So then, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good. 1 Peter 4:19