

Glimpsing Grace in Creation: A Word from the Minister

“When I look at Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers,
the moon and the stars that You have established;
what are human beings that You are mindful of them,
mortals that You care for them?”
(Psalm 8:3-4)

The Reformed tradition moves us to marvel at God’s majesty, to wonder at the eternal freedom and might of the One who created the universe. Creation itself helps us to appreciate God’s majesty, enabling us to admire the works of God’s own hand: as *Living Faith* expresses it, “We hold in reverence the whole creation as the theatre of God’s glory and action” (2.1.2).

Yet the divine majesty and might we see in creation becomes all the more astounding when we realize that this God - the eternal Creator - cares also about *us*. We find ourselves echoing the words of the psalmist, who beholds God’s majesty in the heavens, then asks, in awestruck humility, “what are human beings that You are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?”

When we recognize that God is at once majestic and tender, at once powerful and loving, we begin to realize the depths of His grace. John Calvin emphasized that God is almighty and everlasting, but nonetheless accommodates to our weakness, coming alongside us in our frailty. The One who created all things is the same One who came as a vulnerable baby in a manger. Calvin writes this: “It is a wonder that the Creator of heaven, whose high glory carries us upward to admire Him, descends so low, vouchsafing to take upon Himself the care of humankind.”

The summer months afford us many opportunities to marvel at God’s majesty by delighting in His creation. We may discern the Creator’s majesty in the humbling display of stars, in the haunting call of a loon, in the timelessness of rocks and hillsides, and in the peacefulness of a lake at dawn. At the same time, we may be drawn into deeper faith and gratitude, as we marvel that the mighty and eternal God of creation is also our Redeemer and Sustainer, the One who cares for us today. And that, in a word, is grace.

Blessings to you all!
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