

## **DARE TO WONDER: *How Can We Care for Creation?***

Psalm 24:1-2, Genesis 1:26-31 and Romans 8:22

- i. Today is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.
- ii. John Calvin said that “creation is the theater of God’s glory!”
- iii. To Love God is to care for creation.
- iv. Today we move away from the manger to be sent into the world as caregivers to creation.
- v. Regardless where we are on the spectrum of believers in the science or not, we can all agree that something is happening and needs our attention.
- vi. Consider these images:
  - a. The lungs of the world are on fire
  - b. Ice sheets are melting
  - c. Catastrophic storms
  - d. The hottest July in human history
  - e. Plastic cities are floating in the ocean
  - f. Large volcanic pumice island is floating to Australia

**LOVERS OF GOD CARE FOR CREATION IN THESE THREE WAYS; TWO ARE THEOLOGICAL AND ONE IS PRACTICAL...**

- I. **GOD IS THE OWNER OF THE CREATION AND COSMOS**
  - A. God is the owner of all things.
  - B. The poet reminds us that creation points to God in Psalm 24:1-2.
  - C. This image is an indigenous depiction of the 7 days of creation.
- II. **WE ARE CHARGED WITH THE CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT**
  - A. The story we find ourselves in from Gen 1:26-31 and 2:15.
  - B. What do these words mean: rule, fill, subdue and take care of it?
  - C. We are called to steward what God has given to us as a loan.
  - D. The Scott Erickson art asks us to steward what belongs to God.
- III. **SACRED ACTS THAT LOVE GOD AND HEAL THE EARTH**
  - A. Romans 8:22- The earth groans!
  - B. To love God is to heal the earth!
  - C. Sacred Acts by the people who love God:
    1. Use less water and recycle what you have
    2. Recycle
    3. Live simple lives with less stuff that will go to the landfill.
    4. Repair broken furniture and use technology longer.
    5. Use fewer plastic products, like plastic water bottles.
    6. What have you done to reduce your own carbon footprint???

A Call to Action: I have a gift for you as you leave.....