





JAEI

January 2019 Environmental Prayer Diary

(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>1</p>		
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the LORD your God, the earth with all that is in it.</p> <p><i>Deuteronomy 10:14</i></p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Pray that the delegates who attended the COP24 Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland will continue to work towards a healthier planet and will turn their discussions into actions for the benefit of a healthier Common Home for all.</p>	 <p>COP24-KATOWICE 2018 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Climate change poses the single most serious threat to Africa's development and prosperity. During the past few years SA has experienced devastating weather events. Several regions of our country faced their worst drought in decades. The impact was felt most severely by the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of our society.</p> <p>Despite experiencing "slow and fragile" economic growth "burdened by structural problems" like high unemployment and inequality, South Africa is scaling up its current ambitious efforts to address climate change.</p> <p>The SA government has undertaken investing almost 6% of the gross domestic product (GDP) on adaptation measures and that the country has the requisite institutions, accountability and governance systems to make the best use of available financial resources.</p> <p>This was the message Minister of Tourism Derek Hanekom brought on behalf of President Cyril Ramaphosa to the COP24 climate change conference in Katowice, Poland.</p> <p>Pray that this undertaking will come to fruition with integrity and transparency.</p>	

Saturday

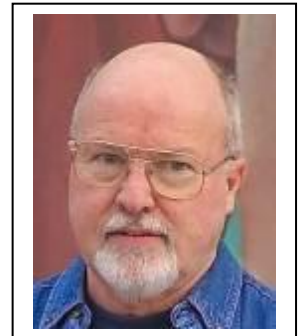
5

In the Beginning and the End - Image and Likeness

God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness." - Genesis 1:26

Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. - Revelation 22:17

As we enter a new year, we consider *Image and Likeness*. Centuries of Christian theology confirm that the "image" described in Genesis refers to our eternal essence in God which cannot be increased or decreased. It is the soul's objective union with God. You (and every other created thing) begin with a divine DNA, an inner destiny as it were, a blueprint tucked away in the cellar of your being, that begs to be allowed, to be fulfilled, and to show itself.



"It is the Holy Spirit poured into your heart, and it has been given to you" (Romans 5:5). My "I am" is merely a further breathing forth of the eternal and perfect "I Am Who Am" of the Creator (Exodus 3:14). This "beingness" precedes all doing. I am loved - or better, I am love - before I do anything right or wrong, worthy or unworthy. To put it philosophically, ontology precedes morality. Without doubt, this is our "original blessing." The divine indwelling is a gratuitous gift, standing presence, and guarantee. We are the containers, temples, and recipients of this gift. In a certain sense, it had nothing to do with us. And yet it is our own inherent and irrevocable dignity. I call it the True Self, an immortal, imperishable diamond.

The indwelling divine image moves toward fulfilment in each of us throughout our lifetimes. "Likeness" refers to our personal and unique embodiment of that inner divine image. It is our gradual realization of this gift. We all have the same objective gift, but different ways of saying yes and consenting to it. There are as many ways to manifest God as there are beings in the universe. Our personal and collective embodiments reveal aspects of the sacred through our personhood, relationships, fields of work and study, culture, economy, politics, and justice. Though we differ in likeness, the *imago Dei* persists and shines through all created things.


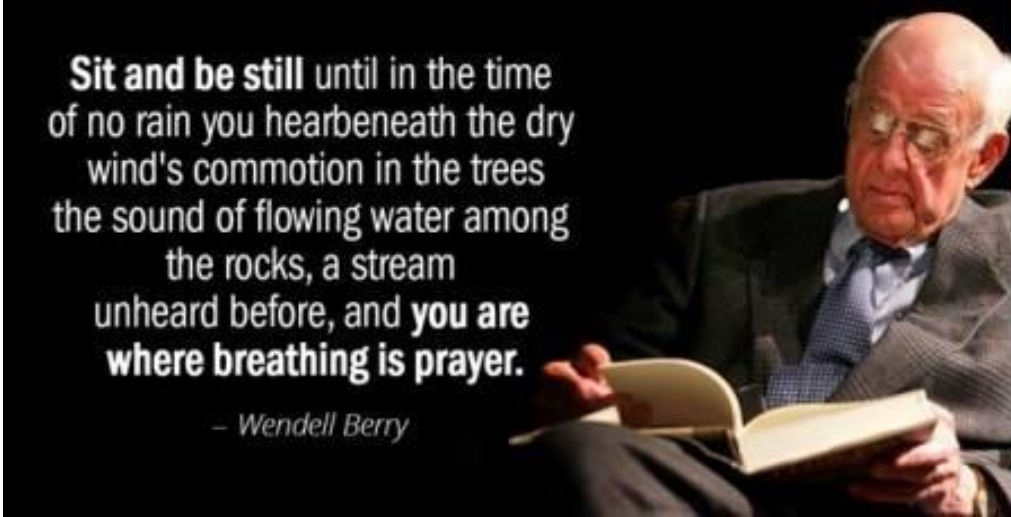
Divinization or *theosis*, is the process of becoming our truest selves. The clear goal and direction of biblical revelation is toward a full mutual indwelling. We see the movement toward union as God walks in the garden with naked Adam and Eve and "all the array" of creation (Genesis 2:1). The theme finds its climax in the realization that "the mystery is Christ within you, your hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). As John excitedly puts it, "You know him because he is with you and he is in you!" (John 14:17). The eternal mystery of incarnation will have finally met its mark, and "the marriage feast of the Lamb will begin" (Revelation 19:7-9). As in the beginning, so in the end. Amen. Let it be so.


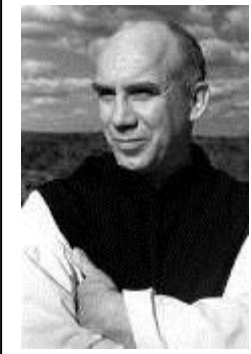
Gateway to Presence:


Today, take note of what word or phrase stands out to you. Come back to that word or phrase throughout the day, being present to its impact and invitation.


From **Richard Rohr's** daily meditations

www.cac.org



<p>Sunday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>From the dawning of the day through the morning, guide us, from the noontide to the setting of the sun, lead us, from the evening till we sleep, keep us, through the night till daybreak, protect us, and all for your love's sake.</p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>A key Resolution recognising that forests have a decisive role to play in the sequestration and storage of carbon in the soil, trees and other vegetation, and in providing goods, resources and materials with a smaller carbon footprint, such as harvested wood products was accepted.</p> <p>Give thanks for this action and pray that all countries will act accordingly.</p> <p><i>Read the full Resolution</i></p>	 <p>COP24 · KATOWICE 2018 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>Sit and be still until in the time of no rain you hear beneath the dry wind's commotion in the trees the sound of flowing water among the rocks, a stream unheard before, and you are where breathing is prayer.</p> <p>– <i>Wendell Berry</i></p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.”</p> <p>Wallace Stegner</p>	


<p>Thursday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>SDG Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development</p> <p><i>Pray that this Goal will be achieved</i></p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Leader: For the beauty of a country scene <i>We praise you Lord for sight</i> Leader: For the coolness of a mountain stream <i>We praise you Lord for touch</i> Leader: For robins in tuneful flow <i>We praise you Lord for ears</i> Leader: For the taste of fruit that we have grown <i>We praise you Lord for senses</i></p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.”</p> <p><i>Thomas Merton</i></p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>God of the universe, We thank You for Your many good gifts - For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.</p> <p>Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted And wasted what You have given us. Transform our hearts and minds So that we would learn to care and share, To touch the earth with gentleness and with love, Respecting all living things.</p> <p>We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference, And we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough food and clean water. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species And help us to willingly share your gifts Today and always. Amen.</p> <p><i>Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland</i></p>	


Monday	14	<p>A 2017 paper signed by more than 20,000 scientists declares that unsustainable population growth is a primary driver of our current environmental crisis including climate change. The World Scientists' Warning to Humanity calls for action to reduce population growth, including better education for women and girls and provision of high-quality family planning for all who need it. Meanwhile humanity is consuming the resources of 1.7 Earths, with that number set to rise to 3 Earths by 2050 unless population and consumption trajectories are radically changed.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider this environmental issue</i></p>
Tuesday	15	<p>Reflection: <i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></p> <p>“32. The earth’s resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production. The loss of forests and woodlands entails the loss of species which may constitute extremely important resources in the future, not only for food but also for curing disease and other uses. Different species contain genes which could be key resources in years ahead for meeting human needs and regulating environmental problems.”</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> reflect on this</p>
Wednesday	16	<p>“Anyone who believes in indefinite growth on a physically finite planet is either mad or an economist.”</p> <p><i>Sir David Attenborough</i></p>
Thursday	17	
Friday	18	<p>A Wayside Sacrament</p> <p>“Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful; for beauty is God's handwriting - a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.”</p> <p><i>Ralph Waldo Emerson</i></p>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Creator God, source of goodness and grace, fill us with reverence for the mystery of life and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race and our place in Creation. Grant us wisdom and determination to respect, protect and preserve life and all that supports it now and in the future, in accordance with your will.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>God, I thank you for the healing rain that washes the curving hills bright green. I thank you for the beams of sunlight that falls softly on a child's face. I thank you for butterflies and flowers, birds and fish, stars and trees, all of these beautiful things you created for us. I pray that all of your children see and wonder at these, and that the joy of these follows them through their lives now and forever. In your name we pray, Amen.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>21</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>This is your garden, Creator God a thing of beauty beyond understanding, a poem that is being written not in words, but in colours, wind's whisper, soaring bird, snowdrop's petal, gentle rain, sunlight's warmth. This is your garden, Creator God, a thing of beauty beyond understanding,</p>



<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>“Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.” Mother Teresa</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Creation Hymn</p> <p>Creator God, who carved the canyons with a painless breath Who sends the rains on unmanned fields and tucks the sun to rest The dawn is clothed with brilliance and adorned in full array Reflections of the Father’s love put wildly on display</p> <p>O Sovereign one who fashioned oceans deep by whisper strong Who rends the waters from the land and lends the depths her song The fullness of the sky and sea in reverence do they stand To testify the sovereignty and goodness of Your hand</p> <p>Halleluiah All creation sings Holy, Holy Glory to the King</p> <p>Eternal King, who shows no turning faithful through all change Unbroken praise and righteousness adorn Your matchless name The frailty of created things sustained by Christ alone Sufficient is Your providence Immortal is Your throne</p> <p>(c) 2009 Dayspring Music, LLC, Centricity Music Publishing, Love Your Enemies Publishing</p> 

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God."</p> <p>Romans 8:19-21</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Loving Father and Creator of all we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation.</p> <p>As we look around, we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made. Nature around us speaks of your greatness - the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design. You have given us such beauty in the colours of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created.</p> <p>We join in praise with the writer of the psalms when he says, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created.</p> <p>We humbly give you praise and thanks. Amen</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>28</p>	 <p>My sheep listen to my voice: I know them, and they follow me. - JOHN 10:27 NIV</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name shall echoe through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>From "A New Zealand Book of Prayer"</p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.</p> <p><i>Psalm 65:5-13</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p>God planted the seed of faith in all our hearts, what he requests from us is that we continue to water the plant with prayers, and ensure that the plant does not die. It is therefore our duty to cultivate the plant and ensure that it brings new seed everyday and every time.</p>

www.jaei.org.za