

Story, from an All Ages Service
“Filled with Loving Kindness”

March, 29th, 2014

(This story was shared within the worship service, in two parts. A homily geared to the whole congregation was offered after the story ended.)

Time for All Ages – Adapted from a traditional wisdom story from the Plains Native Peoples

Characters, and their Actions:

Sun: Will hold up a golden sculpture of the sun, moving it around in slow or fast circles when it speaks.

Rain: Will hold up a rain stick, moving it back and forth, making rain noise, when it speaks.

Mother Earth: Will be wrapped in a long brown cloth and will move the cloth slowly, when it speaks.

Wheat: Will hold up a thin bundle of grass, shaking them back and forth when it speaks.

Act I

Narrator: One morning the sun got up in a bad mood.

Sun: I'm really tired of getting up every morning and giving light to the earth, day after day. I'm tired of ripening the corn and melting the snow. What does the human race ever do in return?

Narrator: The Sun was still thinking this over when the rain arrived.

Sun: Lady Rain, you water the earth all the time and make the flowers grow. You turn the fields green, and fill up the rivers. What does the human race ever do for you in return?

Narrator: The rain furrowed her brow, broke out in a terrible noise and fell headlong into the earth. And as she fell she pounded out these words:

Rain: Listen Mother Earth. You let humankind work you, rip you open, scratch and scrape you. What does the human race ever do for you in return?

Narrator: The earth turned into its own furrows and murmured to the grain of wheat:

Earth: Hey little grain of wheat. You let yourself die so that humankind can eat bread. What does the human race ever do for you in return?

Narrator:

And then the sun stopped shining. (Hide sun)

And then the rain stopped falling (Let rain-stick roll one more time then fade out and hide)

And then the earth stopped holding the grain (Ball brown cloth up)

And then the grain stopped germinating (Hide grain)

And life disappeared form the face of the earth.

(Accompanist plays Beethoven's "da-da-da-dum!")

Act II

Narrator:

As we had left them...

The sun had stopped shining.

The rain had stopped falling

The earth had stopped holding the grain

The grain had stopped germinating

And life had disappeared form the face of the earth.

(Accompanist plays "da-da-da-dum.")

Eventually... the sun became bored, because there were no longer and children dancing in it's warmth and light

Sun: *(sneaks a peak, lifting up just a bit.)*

Narrator: The rain became saddened at never seeing the smile of the gardener in his garden

Rain: *(tilts a tiny bit to make a little rain noise)*

Narrator: The earth became weary at never hearing the joyful steps of the laborer on her back.

Earth: *(uncurls a little bit, and sways a little bit.)*

Narrator: And the grain of wheat began to rot in solitude.

Wheat: *(sinks to it's side.)*

Narrator: Together they decided to have a meeting with God, the creator, and this is what they said to him:

All: Lord, everything is dying in this universe that you created to be good and fruitful. Give back life to the earth, we beg you.

Narrator: And God replied.

All: *(Facing the congregation and reaching out with a hand)* My friends, I have given you everything you need to support life on earth. Life cannot be born except of you and between you. And life will be born anew if each of you shares of it's nature with all creation. For life is born out of a sharing of life. And where cooperation is refused, life cannot be.

Narrator: Life is born out of a sharing of life. Can you say this with me

Congregation: Life is born out of a sharing of life.

(Worship Associate Passes out the chenille stems ...)

Narrator: The first chenille stem is looped. All the rest are open. Begin with your row, pass them to the center... loop each person's stem. Once the loops are done in your row, pass the whole mess of loops back to the row behind you, and continue until all the loops are looped together, and everyone's stem is used.

Narrator: *(Engages congregation in a conversation about working together, as the congregation works the loops together...)*