

READING: based on Genesis 1:1-31

In the beginning there was God... and a mess.  
And it was a real mess.  
You couldn't see anything.  
Things could bump into you and  
you would bump into them all the time.  
There were icky, gooey things,  
and soft things,  
and hard things,  
and sharp, prickly things —  
Ouch! —  
and everything was bumping into everything all the time,  
because you couldn't see anything,  
because there wasn't any light.  
Just the mess.  
And God.

Some people call a mess like that "chaos."  
I just call it a mess.

Then God did something about the mess.  
God started talking.  
God said, "Turn on, light!"  
And light turned on.  
And when light turned on,  
you could tell light from dark,  
and you could start to make out colors,  
so you could see the mess for all it was,  
everything, all jumbled up.  
There was water, and rocks, and clouds,  
and sand, and fire, and glass,  
all jumbled up.  
You could see the mess.  
And so could God.

So God kept talking.  
And the more God talked,  
the more unjumbled things became.  
Clouds rose, water fell and gathered into streams and lakes,  
sand and smaller rocks dotted their shores,  
while bigger rocks became land and hills and mountains,  
and fire moved under the rocks.

And God kept talking.  
And the unjumbled jumble began to dance  
with all kinds of life.  
Life in the waters, life on the land and hills and mountains,  
life in the ground, and life above in the skies.

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Everything was dancing with all kinds of life.  
There was green life covering the land,  
swimming life in the waters,  
bobbing life, hopping life, standing life,  
wriggling life, flying life, walking life,  
running life — life watching life,  
everywhere life.  
And God kept talking.  
And there was one more kind of life  
that started dancing.  
And when this kind came,  
our kind of life,  
we did more than dance.  
We started talking, too,  
kind of like God was talking,  
getting the jumble out of the mess,  
and making more room for more life to dance.

And when God saw us start talking,  
kind of like God was talking,  
God said,  
“This is very good.”

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.  
<sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”