

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday April 20, 2026 - I Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Read I Peter 4 for meditation and inspiration.



CARING FOR CREATION

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Some of you already know that I consider myself an adopted member of the Dineh or (Navajo) Tribe through my dear departed brother Julius Pete. As we approach our Presbyterian Church's "Caring for Creation" tribute, my mind and heart go often to those tribal memories and their way of experiencing life.

Native Americans see Earth Day as an extension of a daily, sacred duty to Mother Earth, viewing her not as a resource but as a living relative, provider, and sacred interconnected being, emphasizing reciprocity, respect, and spiritual connection, with many advocating for Native-led solutions and recognizing traditional stewardship as a vital model for planetary health.

When God had finished the creation that would be handed over to the humans that were yet to be created his word was: *"And God saw that it was good."*

(Genesis 1:25c). That creation was designed in such a way that humans should care for it and also, could both enjoy and learn lessons for life from it.

Proverbs 6:6, for example, exhorts us to learn from the ant, and be wise. In Luke 12:27, Jesus tells us to consider the lilies and learn from them about God's love. The psalmist was aware of the fact that *"the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge."*

Perhaps, most profound way to understand the native view of "Caring for Creation" are the words of Chief Seattle in his Treaty Oration of 1854-

"Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event of days long vanished. Even the rocks, which seem to be dumb and dead as they swelter in the sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people, and the very dust upon which you now stand responds more lovingly to their footsteps than yours, because it is rich with the blood of our ancestors, and our bare feet are conscious of the sympathetic touch. Whatever befalls the Earth, befalls the sons of the Earth. You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the Earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the Earth is our mother."

So let us live lives that show our remembrance of the scriptural truth that: *"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein; for he has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers."* (Psalm 24:1&2)

Gratefully for all that exists by God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger