

July 8th Daily Devotional:

Beth Norcross, Founding Director of the Center of Spirituality in Nature, speaks about Psalm 50 in relation to economic (in)justice.

She shares that we have violated God's covenant by harming the earth with our "unsustainable lives and lifestyles". Yet, she also says, "...there is hope. The Psalmist tells us how to begin: with thanksgiving for the sufficiency of God's gifts...we build on this foundation of thankfulness, renew our covenant with God, and creation, and participate in what Joanna Macy and others call 'The Great Turning.' We make real sacrifices and real change and 'go the right way' so that we may 'enjoy the salvation of God' (v.23)."

(Psalms Books 2-3: Wisdom Commentary Vol. 21, edited by Denise Dombkowski Hopkins.)

May we take a moment to speak our gratitude to God today and consider the steps of "real change" we can take for the good of God's creation.

Here is a view from my hometown, the place I first fell in love with God's creation.

Where comes to mind for you when you give thanks for creation?

Psalm 50

- 1 The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.
- 4 He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- 5 'Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.
Selah
- 7 'Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.
- 8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt-offerings are continually before me.
- 9 I will not accept a bull from your house,
or goats from your folds.
- 10 For every wild animal of the forest is mine,

the cattle on a thousand hills.
11 I know all the birds of the air,
and all that moves in the field is mine.
12 'If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and all that is in it is mine.
13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls,
or drink the blood of goats?
14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.
15 Call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.'
16 But to the wicked God says:
'What right have you to recite my statutes,
or take my covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you.
18 You make friends with a thief when you see one,
and you keep company with adulterers.
19 'You give your mouth free rein for evil,
and your tongue frames deceit.
20 You sit and speak against your kin;
you slander your own mother's child.
21 These things you have done and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one just like yourself.
But now I rebuke you, and lay the charge before you.
22 'Mark this, then, you who forget God,
or I will tear you apart, and there will be no one to deliver.
23 Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honour me;
to those who go the right way
I will show the salvation of God.'

