

Week 5

Creatures of the sea and sky

Opening Music

John Rutter, *For the Beauty of the Earth*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbDoMfIYErE>

Reading

Genesis 1: 20-23

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Reflection

"We cannot but admit that not even the least thing takes place unless it is ordered by God. For who have ever been so concerned and curious as to find out how much hair he has on his head? There is no one. God, however, knows the number. Indeed, nothing is too small in us or in any other creature, not to be ordered by the all-knowing and all-powerful providence of God."

Zwingli, Huldrych

One day a terrible fire broke out in a forest - a huge woodlands was suddenly engulfed by a raging wild fire. Frightened, all the animals fled their homes and ran out of the forest. As they came to the edge of a stream they stopped to watch the fire and they were feeling very discouraged and powerless. They were all bemoaning the destruction of their homes. Every one of them thought there was nothing they could do about the fire, except for one little hummingbird.

This particular hummingbird decided it would do something. It swooped into the stream and picked up a few drops of water and went into the forest and put them on the fire. Then it went back to the stream and did it again, and it kept going back, again and again and again. All the other animals watched in disbelief; some tried to discourage the hummingbird with comments like, "Don't bother, it is too much, you

are too little, your wings will burn, your beak is too tiny, it's only a drop, you can't put out this fire."

And as the animals stood around disparaging the little bird's efforts, the bird noticed how hopeless and forlorn they looked. Then one of the animals shouted out and challenged the hummingbird in a mocking voice, "What do you think you are doing?" And the hummingbird, without wasting time or losing a beat, looked back and said, "I am doing what I can."

<https://sechangersoi.be/EN/5EN-Tales/Humminbird.htm>

Music

All Things Bright and Beautiful

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShpRCvU_bxM

Prayer

Prayer from a Young Person in Vanuatu

O Jesus,
be the canoe that holds me in the sea of life,
be the steer that keeps me straight,
be the outrigger that supports me in time of great temptation.
Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day,
as I journey steadfastly on the long voyage of life.
Amen.

Ruth Valerio, Saying Yes to Life p. 135

Closing Music

Hillsong United, *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw