

July 2, 2017
Summer Sermon Series
“Beaches of the Bible: The First Beach”
(And It Was Good)

First Reading ~ Genesis: 1-10

At the beginning of God's (Elohim's) creating of the heavens and the earth, when the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the deep – yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters;

Then God said, “Let there be Light”, and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night”. Evening came, and morning followed – the first day.

Then God said, “Now make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. God called the expanse “Sky”. Evening came, and morning followed – the second day.

Then God said, “Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!” So it was. God called the dry ground “Earth” and the gathering of waters “Sea”. And God saw that this was good.

Second Reading ~ Adapted Matthew Fox in “Original Blessing”

A significant question is this: Why do we seem to prefer love of death over love of life? Missiles to celebration? Power-over to power-with? Grabbing and greed to letting go?

I am certain that a question as poignant as this one can yield many rich answers, but I would like to offer just one answer from my perspective as a theologian. It is this: Western civilization has preferred love of death to love of life to the very extent that its religious traditions have focused on and preferred redemption to creation, sin to ecstasy, and individual introspection to cosmic awareness and appreciation. Religion has failed people in the West as often as it has been silent about pleasure or about the cosmic creation, about the ongoing power of the flowing energy of the Creator, about original blessing.