

Reflection for the First Week of Season of Creation

Thomas Barry tells us that we will recover a sense of wonder and awe in the sacred only if we appreciate the universe beyond ourselves as a revelatory experience of that presence that brought all things into being. Indeed, the universe is the primary sacred reality. We become sacred by our participation in this sublime dimension of the world around us.

Like Moses in awe and wonder at experiencing God in the burning bush, we have a modern day “burning bush” experience through the Webb Telescope. Rumi tells us that “the spark of the soul is not easily lit.” When one hears scientists express ecstasy and cry tears of joy and wonder, when one listens to the new creation story becoming more real and visible on our computers and in our living rooms, there is a chance that a spark is being lit in many people around the world. Perhaps the Webb Telescope is offering us a collective experience of awe and awakening of sparks, our own burning bush.

Pause for a moment and look in awe at the amazing Cartwheel Galaxy brought to us by the Webb Space Telescope:



In calling us back to the wonder, beauty, and ecstasy of the universe, we are offered a profound medicine and healing. This awesome universe is today’s burning bush, a place that we call home, a place where we find God.

As an ancient meso-American teaching puts it: “To be human one must make room in one’s heart for the wonders of the universe.” Does seeing for yourself a bit of the vastness of our universe through the Webb Telescope assist you to make room in your heart for the wonders of the universe, the wonders of our Creator God, and the wonders of our earth home that needs our care?

