

Creation 4C - Cosmos  
Peace, Seattle  
October 6, 2013  
Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-5, 10-14

## **WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?**

**The dimensions of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, are mind-boggling:**

Up to 400,000 billion stars—and perhaps at least as many planets—arranged in a giant spiral disk of stars, dust, and gas measuring 100,000 light-years in diameter.

**Our own solar system**, arrayed around a single one of those stars, is located, astronomers tell us, in the “outer suburbs” of our galaxy, 27,000 light years from the galaxy center.

To put it in more accessible terms, if our Solar System were the size of a quarter, the Milky Way galaxy would have a diameter of 1,200 miles, an area one-third the size of the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Proxima Centauri, our nearest solar neighbor, lies 4¼ light-years—a mere 25 trillion miles—away. **And here’s the clincher: our Milky Way is but one of perhaps 500 billion galaxies.**<sup>2</sup>

Three years ago two astronomers from Yale and Harvard, using the most up to date data, estimated the number of stars in the universe. Their answer: 300 sextillion. That’s a 3 followed by 26 zeros.<sup>3</sup>

One member of the duo, astrophysicist Charlie Conroy, took the number of cells in each human body—50 trillion or so—multiplied that number by the 6 billion people on Earth, and came up with essentially the same number: 300 sextillion.

Roughly speaking, then, he ventured that the number of stars in the universe “is equal to all the cells in the humans on Earth.”<sup>4</sup>

**And yet, for all this vastness, on both a macro-scale and a micro-scale, we confess to putting our trust in the one Triune God whom we believe is at the source of all of this; who 13.8 billion years after the BIG BANG continues to bring this universe—vast and intricate—into being.**

**Here we are this Sunday morning**, sitting on what Carl Sagan called “this pale blue dot,” located in the “outer suburbs” of our home galaxy, and situated within the habitable zone in our planet’s orbit around the Sun...

**Here we are...and we had nothing to do with getting here!**

- Had nothing to do with the cosmic forces that made the emergence of life in the universe a possibility.
- Had nothing to do with the circumstances, infinitesimal by every measure, which led to Earth’s formation within the crucial habitable zone around our parent Star—the Sun.
- Had nothing to do with the incredibly long, complex, incredible and beleaguered history of Earth’s evolutionary history, which, after hundreds of millions of years of effort, finally saw the emergence of intelligent life.
- **We had nothing to do with the fact that we are...and yet, here we are!**

**So, my friends, my fellow and sister Earthlings, the question is: WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milky\\_Way](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milky_Way)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my\\_weblog/2013/06/500-billion-a-universe-of-galaxies-some-older-than-milky-way.html](http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my_weblog/2013/06/500-billion-a-universe-of-galaxies-some-older-than-milky-way.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/12/01/number-of-stars-in-universe\\_n\\_790563.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/12/01/number-of-stars-in-universe_n_790563.html)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

## What are we here for?

**The ancient texts we read as we gather in this house of worship each week, give us a clue. For in them, we meet the God has chosen to reveal Godself.**

### And what do these scriptures say?

- They speak of a Creator who, with love and purpose, brought all this into being and called it GOOD.
- They speak of a Creator who, out of a desire for relationship, has chosen to be made known.
- They speak of Holy Wisdom, there from the beginning at God's right hand, coding her intelligence, engraving her delight and wonder and precision into the DNA of every thing that is.

**And in today's gospel**, we hear of how the CREATIVE ENERGY OF GOD, the one through whom all things came into being—the WORD—moved from the realm of the infinite to the finite, and taking on flesh and blood, bone and sinew in the womb of Mary, became one of us.

**This WORD, whom we call JESUS, is the WORD God has been aiming toward all along.** God's love note. God's message. God's gift. God's very self. And what did he teach us?

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

**What are we here for? To love one another as Christ has loved us.**

Only now...ONLY NOW, 21<sup>st</sup> centuries after Christ spoke those words, are we beginning to understand that the LOVE with which Christ embraced us and to which he calls us, is meant not only for the human species, but for the Earth itself, and every living thing.

For 2,000 years, Christians have been coming to Font and Table, to meet the God who is FOR US in Jesus Christ. And at last these sacred encounters with water, wine and wheat are opening our eyes to our relationship and connection to the rest of creation, and how God will use us to heal and restore.

We call this the final Sunday of the Season of Creation, but actually, that's not true. For every day is a season of creation. And every day we are called to love and care for this good Earth which is God's most precious gift and blessing.

We had nothing to do with how we came to be on this Earth. But we have everything to do with the way we will live so that all life will be cared for and thrive within God's grand design.

May God grant us the will to do so.

Amen.