



Venture

May 10, 2020
5th Sunday of Easter

We Belong to God and One Another

“This we know. All things are connected. Whatever befalls earth befalls the children of earth. We do not weave the web of life; we are merely strands of it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.” —Chief Seattle

Work on your own to complete these sentences. Then share your responses.

When I think of how we treat the earth, I feel

What concerns me most about the way we treat the earth is

What I appreciate about living on earth is

What makes me feel most connected to God’s Creation is

What makes me feel disconnected from God’s Creation is

I think that the place of human beings
in God’s Creation is



Why Is the SKY So Far Away?

Cast of Characters:

Narrator 1	Human Beings
Narrator 2	Earth
Plants	Sea
Birds	Sky
Fish	Chorus
Animals	



Scene 1

Narrator 1: Not such a very long time ago, Earth, Sea, and Sky lived in peace as one.

Narrator 2: All the living things on Earth, under Sea, and in Sky also lived in peace as one.

Plants: We grow where we're planted. We know what we're worth. We're happy we're rooted in good, solid earth.

Birds: We soar through the air with the greatest of ease. We're joyful and happy as larks, if you please.

Fish: Through waters we glide with grace, style, and bearing. We're free as the birds and as happy as herring.

Animals: We run, graze, and canter; we leap, creep, and crawl. We're so happy to be here! We're having a ball!

Human Beings: Earth, Sea, Sky, you're splendid; you're stunning; you're swell! We're so happy with you and with all God's Creation to dwell.

Scene 2

CHORUS: Everything was good. Everything was right.

The sun shone all day;
the moon shone all night.
No one went hungry;
the plants, birds, and fish.



The animals and humans all shared the same wish.

Narrator 1: Earth's and Sea's plants and creatures did not have to hunt or work for their food.

Narrator 2: In fact, their food surrounded them. That's right. Sky was their food. Each day, all of the plants and fish and animals and human beings dined on Sky.

Plants: Sky is the best. Sky is the most! Sky tastes like the earth and good rich compost.

Birds: We're all in accord; we're all agreed. Sky tastes like the finest and rarest birdseed.

Fish and Animals: No matter our need, our want, or desire, Sky tastes exactly like what we require.

Human Beings: Sky—we love it! No complaints at all! Nutritious, delicious, and low cholesterol.

Narrator 1: And so it went. Whenever God's creatures grew hungry, they turned to friendly Sky, and Sky supplied their needs.

Narrator 2: Earth was happy. Sea was happy. All God's plants and creatures were happy. And Sky? Well, Sky's smile stretched

from horizon to horizon. Sky was happiest of all.

Scene 3

CHORUS: Everything was good. Everything was right. The sun shone all day; the moon shone all night. No one went hungry; nobody was needy, until one day Sky noticed that some were acting greedy.



Sky: What's all this? Who's nibbling at my edges? Who's eating more than their share?

Plants: It isn't us. We tell the truth, but we've noted lately, alas, that some of us are missing, like the wild prairie grass.

Birds: It isn't us. We eat our share, but not an extra smidgen. But some of us have vanished too—dodo bird and passenger pigeon.

Fish: It isn't us. We tell you true; to this we all avow. Yet some of us are truly lost—the blue pike and sea cow.

Animals: It isn't us. We do not cheat. We do not lie or steal. Besides, we've lost the tiger wolf and also the monk seal.

Sky: Who is it, then? Who thinks they are so important that they can eat more than their share? Worse, who thinks

so much of themselves that they can eat someone else's share, and eat them right out of existence? Who's that "special"?

Human Beings: We are! We are!

Sky: What?

Human Beings: We're Number One! We're Number One! Nothing's more important here than us! We want all we take. We take all we want. There's nothing more to argue or discuss.

Sky: You! I can't believe it! Who do you think you are? Aren't you just one of God's many creatures?

Human Beings: No! We're Number One! We're Number One! We're in charge of all of Creation. So what if we eat more than anyone else? We're decreasing excess population.

Earth, Sea, Sky: What ego!

Plants & Birds: What arrogance!

Fish and Animals: What selfishness!

Human Beings: What of it? Dominance is our destiny. We can never have enough. If the rest of you don't like it, All we can say is "Tough!"

Narrator 1: All of God's Creation was stunned into silence.

Narrator 2: For the longest time, no one could say anything.

Scene 4

CHORUS: *(a whisper building to a shout)*

**Everything was rotten,
everything amiss,**

**from the highest mountain
to the deep abyss.**

**All Creation was struck silent
out of shock and fear,**

**until, at last, Sky spoke up
loudly, and said,**

Sky: I'm outta here!

CHORUS: **With that, Sky left—
just headed out and
up, up, and away,
beyond the highest
mountaintops, forever and a day,
until dear Sky was out of reach
to greedy folks below,
no longer on Creation its bounty
to bestow.**

Narrator 1: From then 'til now, 'til ever since, Sky has been far away—up, beyond, out of reach.

Narrator 2: From then 'til now, 'til ever since, Sky has wept regularly over all below.

Narrator 1: Sky's tears fill Sea.

Narrator 2: Sky's weeping waters Earth.

Narrator 1 & 2: From then 'til now, 'til ever since, Sky has been blue and always far away.

Epilogue

Narrator 1: But wait! This tale has not yet reached its end.

Narrator 2: There still is much to tell.

Narrator 1: We can make its ending happy ...

Narrator 2: ... if we but listen well.

Earth: LOOK CLOSELY at Creation, at all beneath dear Sky. Look with open eyes of love. See more than meets the eye.

Look how all the birds and fish, all animals, plants, and sod show us the Creator—reveal the face of God.

Sea: USE CAREFULLY Creation's gifts. Don't be proud or greedy.

Fast from overusing. Share with all the needy.

For when you live more simply, you're more open to God's grace and able to make of our world a truly sacred place.

Sky: ACT COURAGEOUSLY with justice, Creation to restore. Protect and care for creatures. God's not making any more.

Remember, all Creation, the fruit of God's great labor, plants, birds, fish, and animals, each one is your neighbor.

Earth, Sea, Sky:

To everything created you're connected, linked, attached.

So remember, God called all things "good," without any strings attached.

CHORUS: **Under Sky so blue,
remember too,
that this tale will never be done,
until you and I—
each girl and each guy—
will help Earth, Sea, and Sky
live as one.**



- 1 What does this story tell us about human beings' relationship to the rest of Creation?
- 2 How can you look more closely at Creation's beauty? Why would you want to?
- 3 What are some examples of using Creation's gifts carefully?
- 4 Whom do you know who acts courageously to protect God's Creation?



SUNDAY GOSPEL

5th Sunday of Easter

John 14:1-12

Jesus Reveals His Father

Narrator: Jesus spoke to his disciples.

Jesus 1: Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God. Have faith in me too. In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again for you, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.

Thomas: Jesus, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?

Jesus 2: I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From

this point on you know and have seen him.

Philip: Jesus, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.

Jesus 3: Philip, after I have been with you all this time, you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

Jesus 4: The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. My Father who lives in me works through me. You may believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Jesus 5: Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me



will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.



- 1 What is troubling Jesus' friends in the Gospel?
- 2 What do Jesus' life and teaching show us about God and about what is important to God?
- 3 What works of Jesus and God do you continue to do?



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

Jesus' friends are worried in Sunday's Gospel. What will they do when Jesus is gone? Philip asks a question; he wants Jesus to show them God, whom Jesus calls Father. Jesus says, "Have I been with you so long, and you still don't know who I am?"

Philip gets an answer that is important to all Christians. Jesus says, "Whoever has seen me has seen God." Jesus'

whole life on earth reveals God. His loving, sharing, forgiving, including actions show us what God is like (CCC, 516). As Christians, we now take Jesus' place in showing forth what God is like. We continue his work of loving, sharing, forgiving, and including people.



- 1 Who do you know who is most like God? In what ways do you find yourself changed by this person?
- 2 Make a list of words to describe what God is like.



Turn to page 49 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* and read the Gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is still with us, helping us, and revealing God's love for us. This is your last *Venture* lesson for the school year. Work with your class to list ways you can share God's love with others, especially during your summer break.

Bible Metaphors Help Us Understand the Church

Bishops from around the world met together at the **Second Vatican Council**. They wrote an important document that teaches Catholics about the Church. A *mystery* is a reality so deep we cannot fully explain it. We call the relationship between God and human beings a mystery.

The Church is a sign of our union with God. It is a community of believers. Our faith in Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit gathers us together and unites us.

The Second Vatican Council uses metaphors from the Bible to help us understand the mystery of belonging to a community that shares one Lord, one faith, one Spirit, one Baptism, and one bread—the Eucharist.

A metaphor is a figure of speech that takes an object or idea and suggests a sameness or likeness (for example, God is our shepherd). God does not herd sheep, of course, but the metaphor tells us that he is caring and constant.

Read these metaphors that describe the Church. Look up the Bible verses for each metaphor. Choose one metaphor and illustrate it on another piece of paper.

We [the Church] are God's co-workers, God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9

The Church is the temple of God, built of living stones.

1 Peter 2:5

The Church is the building of God. Jesus is the stone which the builders rejected but which has become the cornerstone. Matthew 21:42



The Church is the body of Christ; he is the head, we are the members. If one member suffers anything, all members suffer it. If one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

1 Corinthians 12:26

The Church is the house of God in which God's family dwells. The Church is the household of God in the Spirit, the dwelling place of God among humans.

Ephesians 2:19–22

The Church is a sheepfold whose one and necessary door is Christ.

John 10:1–10



**Catholic
FAITH WORD**

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL A meeting of the world's Catholic bishops that took place in Rome from 1962 to 1965 to talk about important topics about the Church in the modern world. These bishops sent out sixteen documents, whose topics included the Eucharist, Sacred Scripture, and how Catholics should co-exist with people from other religions. This meeting transformed the Catholic Church.

1 We See God in Creation

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” These words of the priest-poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., boldly declare that we can see God the Creator in Creation.

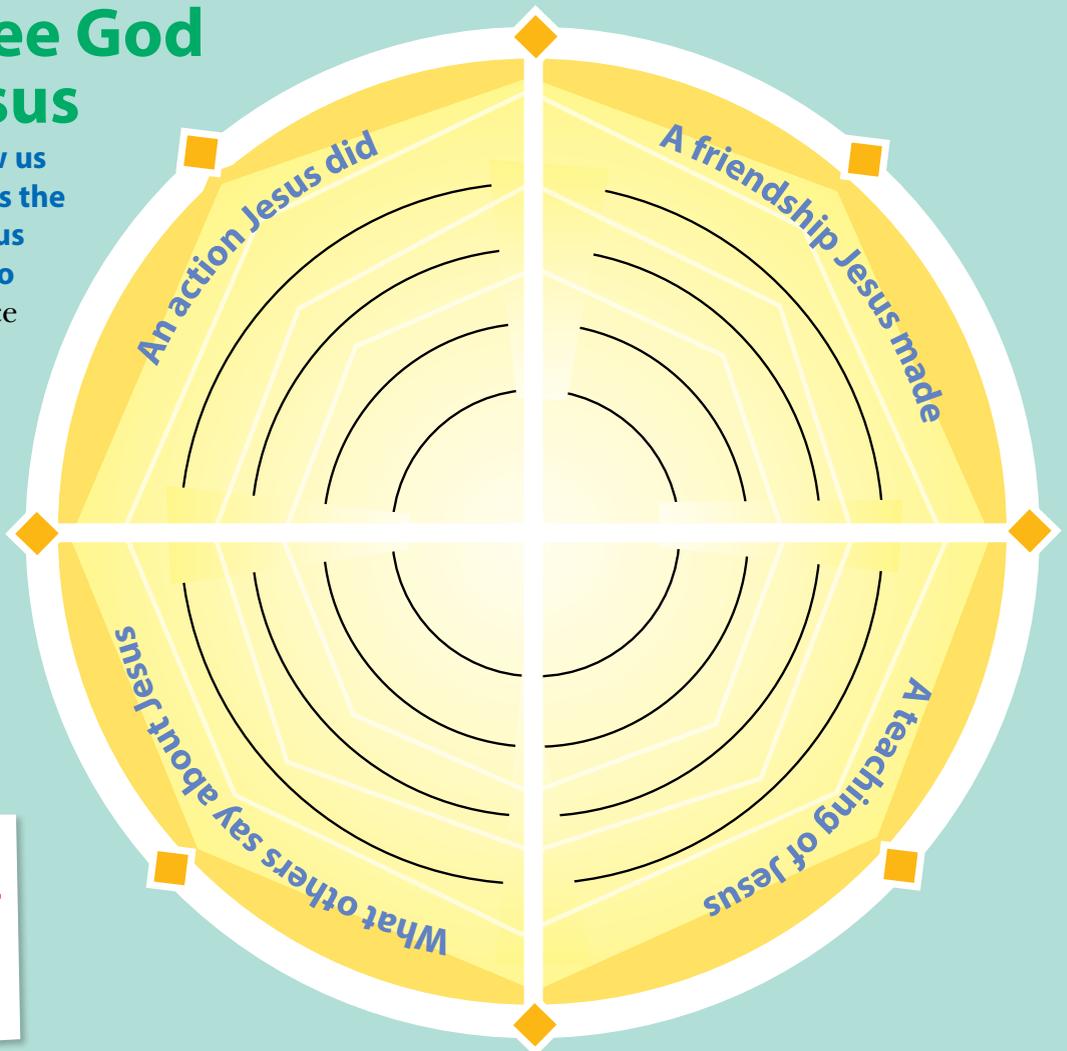
Think of a time when the sky, sea, earth, plants, or animals helped you see God’s grandeur. Recall where you were, what you saw or heard, how you felt, what you most remember.

Write a four-line poem that describes your experience or a prayer that expresses your thanks to God for it.

2 We See God in Jesus

Jesus came to show us the way, to teach us the truth, and to offer us the life that leads to God. We see the face of God in Jesus.

Think back over this past year in your *Venture* class. How did Jesus show us the way to God? What truths did he teach? How does Jesus want us to live our lives?



Complete this circle to discover what Jesus reveals about God.

Face of God

3 We See God in the Church

The people who believe and follow Jesus are called the Church. Whenever we gather to worship, we witness God's love for all Creation. In worship, we celebrate the presence of God.

As members of the Church, we witness to God's presence with our whole selves.

Write in the shapes below ways the Church witnesses with voices, hands, feet, and hearts to God's presence in the world.

With our hands, we

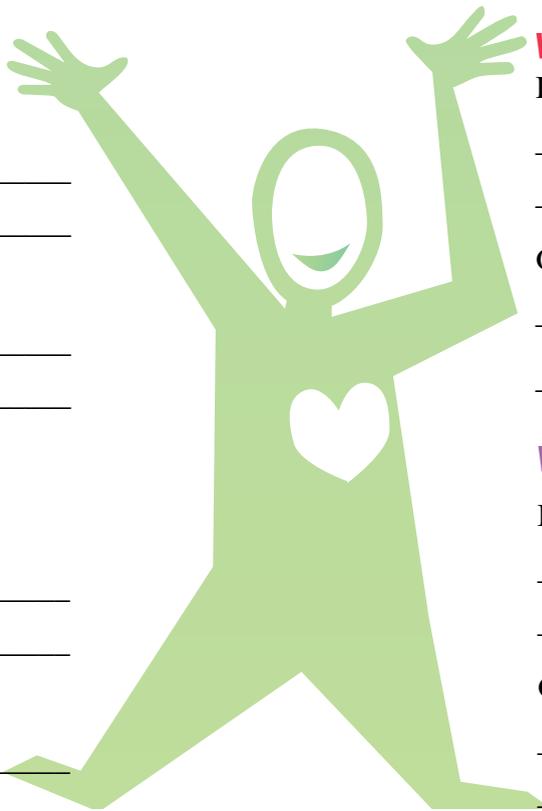
Work for

Touch others

With our feet, we

Take a stand for

March or walk for



With our voices, we

Praise God by

Offer kind words to

With our hearts, we

Feel compassion for

Offer prayer for

With My Family and Friends



Pray

Jesus, I want to trust you in all things. Give me the courage to ask you for what I need. Amen.



Think

When is it difficult for me to trust Jesus?



Act

With your family, talk about times you were worried about something (a test, illness, job, etc.). Share how those things worked out and make note of how many times God has brought you safely through what you were worried about.

Scan here for parent resources.



We Protect God's Creation

Place a candle and a globe or world map on a low table. Gather everyone around. Light the candle to begin your prayer.

Leader: We gather in prayer for our earth. God, you give us this beautiful earth and all that is in it. You created all things of earth and called them "good." Help us become more aware of earth's goodness and sacredness. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Leader: This is a reading from the prophet Daniel.

Reader 1: Let earth bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 2: Mountains and hills, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 1: Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 2: You springs of water, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 1: Seas and rivers, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 2: You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 1: All you birds of the air, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 2: All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Reader 1: All people of the earth, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and exalt God above all forever.

Based on Daniel 3:74–82

Earth Pledge

Leader: Let us pledge ourselves to care for earth.

All: I pledge my care and protection to our earth, the planet upon which we live, and to fresh air, pure water, healthy soil, life-giving plants, and all the animals. One earth—four oceans, seven continents, and thousands of lakes and rivers. I accept my duty to be an honorable citizen of this earth, with respect toward all.

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,

For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;

Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,

Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.

Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Text by Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835–1917)

