

Five weeks • Five reflections • two minutes

ROOT

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee

Theology and cosmology cannot be separated. This is why the Bible opens with stories of Creation reminding us that God created the world and that we are, very literally, stuff of the earth.

Theology gets itself into trouble, humanity gets into trouble, as soon as we stray too far from cosmology. If we get too abstract or disembodied, if we separate souls and bodies, ourselves and creation, we very quickly find ourselves in deep trouble.

The truth of any theology, the truth of any cosmology is in the pudding and the pudding is a mess. Wildfires, plastics in the ocean, COVID, climate change. We're seeing that what happens to Creation happens to us. We have no life apart from our rootedness, our groundedness, in Creation. In the second story of creation in the book of Genesis God quite literally creates humanity out of the earth and then breathes life into us. And we need to get back to this essential truth. This truth that is also taught to us by the scientists, who say we are formed out of star dust. This truth that we are part of Creation. Since the Enlightenment we've told ourselves this story that we are rational beings, that science will save us. But we're starting to see that that is not entirely true. We need to get back to a life-giving theology, a life-giving cosmology, a life-giving way of life that helps us temper our greed and our pursuit of more, and helps us live in balance, in harmony, with all of Creation. Sets limits in this beautiful garden that we are in and reminds us that there are some fruits that we should not touch.

The next chapter of human history, the next theology, the next cosmology, is going to have to be rooted in Creation. Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. This has always been and always will be true. Amen.