



The 5 Foundational Stories of our Faith

Part 6: God Will Fully Heal this Good World (Romans 8)

Guiding Principles

Christian hope is not about our escaping from the world... but about God's renewing it. Rowan Williams, *Tokens of Trust*

The world, indeed, shall not perish, but be changed; it will be transformed by fire, not destroyed. Augustine, *The City of God*, Book XX, ch. 16

Romans 8

- The Biblical story is one long movement toward the healing of God's good world.
- Creation's suffering is like labour pains, not the throes of death.
- God's ultimate healing is resurrection, not abandonment.
- The Holy Spirit is our inoculation against the virus. We still are confronted with it, but it can do our hearts no harm.
- We live between the inoculation and the eradication of the virus; in-between Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of the world.

Gathering. Open with this prayer or sing along to it here.

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Listening. Watch or listen to the teaching.

Wondering. Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- I wonder what of the foundational stories you like best.
- I wonder where you see creation groaning for its healing.
- I wonder how God has given us a glimpse of the world's future in Jesus' resurrection.
- I wonder how the Spirit of God inoculates us from the sin-virus.
- I wonder what gives you hope.

Sharing. Choose a question to share with the group or journal.

Praying. Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

Commissioning. Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week, I want to look for those "labour-ers" working to make the world anew.
- This week, I want to pray especially for God's Spirit to help me become resistant to the violence and apathy infecting the world.
- This week I want to spread a little hope around.

