

Dear Friends,

I am working my way through a book, "Process Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed" by Rev. Bruce G. Epperly. He writes, "The goals of justice and planetary sustainability are one and the same, according to process theologians. ...Process theologians recognize that our attitudes toward the issues of justice, economics, and environment cannot be separated from our spiritual lives. ...The divine restlessness challenges every institutional status quo and unjust social structure with the vision of beauty, healing, and creative transformation." (p. 118)

There is no separation of church and state, or church and economics, or church and community in process theology, not that one is subservient to the other. Rather, it claims we cannot separate the ideals, ethics, and actions one from another. How one group, one person, one party, one business acts and creates a vision of what the world should be will affect all others around it. The church's goal is not domination, but rather collaboration on the ideals, ethics, and actions we hear from the divine restlessness and resistance to those which try to enforce the institutional status quo and unjust social structure. How we treat people reflects how we treat the world and how we treat God's creation reflects how we treat each other.

Do we value life and see the world and all that is in it part of ourselves, part of God's kin-dom, and part of our life? Or do we value commerce and see the world and all who are in it part of the business and how can we extract and use what is available for our benefit?

I do believe that most in our local church and community see our connections and relationships as more important than what and who can be used for our benefit. It is unfortunate that our business, economic, government, and even religious models are often based on numbers and results, not on building community and place of abundant life for all. I believe it was Jimi Hendrix who said, "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace." May that happen soon for all life and creation itself.

Peace,

Pastor Enno