

AN ENTRY ON

Experiencing Beauty Created By God

FROM "A LITURGY FOR
SUNSETS"

IN THE BEGINNING
GOD CREATED THE
HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.
—GENESIS 1:1

POETRY READING: PSALM 19

PROSE READING: GENESIS 1

You have infused your created order
with an inexplicable beauty
that is inseparable from
the expression of your nature.

Open my heart therefore
to the work of your beauty,
to the echoes of your glory
written upon this your creation.

May this meditation upon your glories
not leave me unmoved. May I receive the
expression of this beauty as I would the
lavish endearments of a love letter.

Tender my heart to receive it.

May the patterns of your eternal beauties
be fixed in my soul, O Lord,

that the life I lead and the words I speak
might hereafter be infused with a grace
that would show forth your beauty.

May your people be as winsome as this created beauty,
O God, and give as little cause for offense,
as they carry your name, your truth,
and your love into this world.

Amen.

- Describe the created beauty you have encountered. How is this beauty inseparable from the nature of God? In what way might you know your Lord better after this encounter?

- What would it mean for some pattern of God's eternal beauty to be more fixed in your soul after this encounter? What winsomeness here in nature might you seek to imitate?

- Reflect on the Psalmist's correlation between the beauty of nature and the Word of the Lord. How might you move from this encounter with nature to a similar gratitude for scripture and the Spirit?

RESPONSIVE PRAYER: