

**THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD****Psalm 95, John 1:3**

**Intro:** *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* John 1:3 (ESV) Charles Spurgeon said, “*He that hung upon the cross was the Maker of all worlds. He that came as an infant, for our sake, was the Infinite. How low he stooped! How high he must have been that he could stoop so low!*” All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that was made. PERIOD!

**This is my Father's world!**

- God the Father, God, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit together created this beautiful world. In Genesis 1:1 we read *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Genesis 1:1. As that first chapter of the Bible progresses we see over and over again, God separated, God said, God did this, and God did that. God is ever-present.
- Then when he was about to create humanity, the crescendo of his creative week, we read, *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* Genesis 1:26. **US!** Creation was in community.
- We were created by community, we were created in community, and we are to remain community. It's all part of God's creative plan.

**Our Father's world is to be enjoyed in community**

- Creation is beautiful and, as you know, because you sent us out into it, Kathy and I experienced it up close and personal. As I was leaving, I was talking with Kate Keets and I told her of her plans and our route and I mentioned that I probably wouldn't bore people too much with our pictures on Facebook. And she recoiled and said, “Oh please post pictures! It's one of the only ways I get to travel and see the world.” And I knew I had a charge to keep. So, day by day I would post some photos of where we were, who we'd seen, and what we had experienced. And we realized that lots of people enjoyed our trip along with Kate. Kathy and I were encouraged to share our Father's world in Community.

**This is our Father's world and we have it on loan**

- As a family we use Airbnb – A LOT! We were no different on our trip. Any chance we got, especially when we were staying for more than one night, we tried to use Airbnb over hotels or conventional B&B. It's more like home. One of the ground rules for Airbnb guests is to treat your rental like it's your own home. Now this is assuming guests are not slob. In other words, guests should leave their rental in the same good condition they found it.
- Our creation is the same way. It is our Father's world and we have it on loan. We are to take care of it. We are to enjoy it. We are to preserve it. Since all things were made through him, we should hold all things with reverence.
- The Psalmist proclaims, *The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.* Psalm 21:1 (KJV). As we revel in creation, it brings us into a state of worship. Jeffrey & Kaitlyn, read to us earlier

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;*

*let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;*

*let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

*For the Lord is a great God,*

*and a great King above all gods.*

*In his hand are the depths of the earth;*

*the heights of the mountains are his also.*

*The sea is his, for he made it,*

*and his hands formed the dry land.* Psalm 95:1-5

- This is our Father's world. Even in its ugliness it's beautiful. As you well know, there is much being made these days of climate change. Every new weather pattern is the result of climate change. Everything refers back to the fact that humankind has increased its carbon footprint to the extent that the world is warming. I think a lot of this is the arrogance of humanism.

- But I do believe that climate is changing. For as long as the earth has been here, whether it's thousands of years or millions of years – no matter how long ago God created the earth, climate has been changing. There have been ice ages as recently as the 1500s. In fact, from the 1950s to the 1970s, there was a mini ice age where temperatures were much cooler. We've often talk about how it just doesn't snow like it used to. That's because it doesn't snow like it used to. It was a lot colder for upwards of 40 years. This is because climate is ever changing in this wonderful creation.
- We see God's fingerprints everywhere in creation. Because of that we need to care for our world. We must do what we can to conserve. We must do what we can to protect endangered species. We must do what we can to clean up the air and the water. That is what we refer to as good stewardship. This is our Father's world and that means we need to leave it as he created it. Like we would leave an Airbnb.

**If this is our Father's world we need to have a reverence for it.**

- It's obvious I have a reverence for creation. I have a reverence for the beauty of the mountains, the deserts, and the wildlife. I thoroughly enjoy travels anywhere to see what God has created. So today I want to show you some of the things Kathy and I experienced by showing you some of the places where we traveled.
- Now mind you, I didn't take as many pictures as I would have liked. As I said last week Kathy doesn't take too kindly to me taking my eyes off the road and my hands off the wheel to snap a quick photo of some beautiful vista or a herd of antelope. If we are piled up in the ditch along the road in the back country of Montana, what good are the pictures on our phone? So I didn't get nearly as many great pictures as I have in the past. But Kathy and I have put our heads together to show you some of the best we could find. I'll make commentary as I go as I share a bit of our Father's world. Amen.