

"We Are Dust" by Rev. Ainsley Herrick

remember,
you are dust,
and to dust
you shall return.
that's what they tell me:
remember,
you are nothing
but the dirt
beneath my feet.
you are sinful
and broken
and worthless
dust
only dust
nothing but dust
but I have to ask,
didn't God
create the dust?
and what is dust
if not earth?
didn't God
create the earth
out of nothing?
and didn't God
take that earth –
that dust
and shape it
with Their own hands
and breathe life into it
with their own Spirit,
to create me –

to create us
in Their very image?
God created the earth
from nothing,
but God created us
from the earth,
because we are the earth,
this miraculous mother earth,
that sustains us,
feeds us,
gives us life.
we are her,
she is us,
and just as the earth gives us life,
one day we shall return
to give her life.
to be dust
is not insignificant.
it is not nothing.
to be dust
means to be
part of the cycle
of life and death.
we come from dust
and we return to dust
so our bodies may become
something new.
we are an essential part
of God's creation,
because without me
and without you
God's creation is incomplete.

God created the heavens and the earth
and called it good.

and then They created

the stars

the sun

the moon

the waters

the plants

the birds

the fish

the animals

and finally

the people,

the dust people,

and when God was done

they called it very good.

to be dust

is not bad

or shameful.

to be dust

means to be connected,

to the rest

of God's creation.

God created us

from the dust

with Their own hands

so we would know

we are beloved.

God created us

in their image

so that we could see

God's face

every single day
in the faces
of the other dust people,
and every time
we look in the mirror.
God gave us life
with Their own breath,
Their own Spirit,
so we would know
we are never alone.
I am dust,
and you are dust,
and we are dust,
and God said,
it is good,
very good.