Of all the words our almighty God could use to describe the wonder of the world created by God’s own hands, *good* was the repeated utterance. God saw the light - it was good. Dry land and gathering of waters - good. Earth putting forth grass and plants and trees - good. The great light for dominion of day and the small light for dominion of night - good. Swarms of living creatures, cattle and crawling things and wild beasts and finally, humankind - and God saw all that God had done and look, it was very good.

*Very good.*

How often do you hear these words about yourself?

How often do you let them fall upon your ears and down into your heart, the heart that God - as in God who created every single living thing - the heart that God created and how often do you let those words fall inside?

God saw all that God had done and **look**, it was very good.

The only school subject I continuously failed in was science. Any science. I failed basic biology tests in elementary school, cheated my way through high school Chemistry class - I am not proud of that one - and failed a physical anthropology class in college costing me a lovely lack of credits that semester. I am the last person to preach on science.

But perhaps I’m coming at it entirely backwards.

Perhaps it is about *looking*, beholding.

Our usual NRSV translation of Genesis 1:31 proclaims, “And indeed, it was very good.”

But the Hebrew, the original words of God’s original words are this:

וְהִנֵּה-טוֹב מְאֹד

(God saw all that God had done) and **lo! behold!**, it was very good.

Lo! Behold! This is *wondrous*. This is so good that it surprises and delights *even God.*
You are so good that it surprises and delights even God.

Did you hear that? Did you let it fall inside?

You are so good that it delights God.

When we look at ourselves, what words do we use to describe what we behold? Are we the kind of stereotypical scientists who overanalyze and pick and prod or are we the kind of scientists among us who hold their subject in their hands and let their impulse be that of wonder?

Do we look at ourselves and see what God sees?

A wonderfully beautiful being, created in God's own image, worthy of delight and flourishing? A handcrafted, carefully thought-out human being made for relationship with our Creator who - as you well know - has innumerable other precious relationships but yet - but yet - has created YOU and desires you?

A made to move and dance and play and rest kind of creature, who God loved so much that God gave us - yes US - God's own flesh and bone to show us the way home?

A work in progress, free to think and love and serve, who Christ promised would never be left alone but given the Spirit to guide us while we figure out what this being human thing means?

Do we look at ourselves and see what God sees?

And...a question ever pressing and yet undeniably important this morning:

Do we look at our neighbors, at strangers and friends and everyone else and do we see what God sees?

People who are very good and worthy of safety, of dignity, of a place at the table.

People who are very good and who are made in the image of God just like you and me.

As people “of faith who believe in the sacredness of every single human being, the time for silence is over. We must boldly stand witness against” the hateful words and actions that seek to defile God’s first utterances about us. “To stay silent in the face of such rhetoric is for us to tacitly condone the violence of these words.”

Lo! Behold! You were made to be very good. And so it is with everyone. We must speak this truth. We must live it. We cannot stay silent. God never has. Amen.

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1 https://cathedral.org/have-we-no-decency-a-response-to-president-trump.html