



# Experiencing Beauty



## Intergenerational

### About this Setting

What a blessing to experience beauty in an intergenerational or multiage setting! Every participant will bring a different perspective to the whole group on where, when, how, and why they experience beauty. Aim to make time in activities for all to hear one another's perspectives. Be open to God's Spirit as you look to understand beauty in new ways.

### About this Faith Practice

Experiencing beauty as a faith practice enables us to encounter God through our senses and through the mysterious workings of God's Spirit. When we awaken to the diverse expressions of beauty, we deepen our connection to God, others, and ourselves. Through the beauty around us—in the universe and relationships, amid moments of both delight and brokenness—God communicates grace, healing, and comfort to us. We see anew, and we are moved to worship.

## Intergenerational Options

These activities may be used to build an intergenerational event for the commencement or conclusion of your series “Experiencing Beauty” (up to three hours). Or the activities may be used independently (15–20 minutes each), interwoven with age-specific activities throughout the series. An intergenerational event might be used during a time of year that is already set aside as special, such as Advent, Kwanzaa, Lent, Vacation Bible School, or forty days of prayer for children.

Familiarize yourself with all twelve activities, four each from “Exploring & Engaging,” “Discerning & Deciding,” and “Sending & Serving.” Consider the age of participants and the time available for this event, and choose a group of activities that will meet your needs.

For an event lasting one to two hours, choose three or four activities from the list of twelve. There are enough activities for three or four events! Or choose a single activity (15–20 minutes) to use as the activity at a community meal or other gathering. Wearing name tags is a good idea, as often older and younger members of a church do not know one another’s name.

Each activity ends with a prayer appropriate for the end of the session.

Gather as a church family to grow together and have fun!

## Explorations



**Discovery:** In this Exploration we encounter the practice and look at how it intersects with human needs in community and personal life.



**Scripture:** Christian faith practices grow out of the biblical story of the people of faith. For each faith practice, twelve Bible stories (two for each Exploration) inform and give direction to practicing our faith.



**Discipleship:** Discipleship is about following. In this Exploration we consider what prompts people of faith to become disciples and probe how the Spirit leads us in the communal life of the Christian community and in our personal lives in the world.



**Christian Tradition:** Practices of faith have been shaped by those who have preceded us in the history of the Christian church. The future will be shaped by the way we practice our faith today. Just as a map provides the landmarks we need to follow when we navigate in the world, the rich history of the Christian tradition guides us as we practice our faith today.



**Context and Mission:** In order to claim a role in the mission God gives to the church, you have to know where you are, your local context. In the Context and Mission Exploration we consider ways to practice faith in our community and world.



**Future and Vision:** Practicing our faith leads us into the future. We seek to move into the future with a vision of where we are headed. In the Future and Vision Exploration we consider what impels us into the future. We know that we are still practicing our faith; we won’t do it perfectly. We are empowered to keep practicing.

## Exploring & Engaging Activities

Whether we are new to a particular faith practice or an old hand with much experience, all of us benefit from new opportunities to explore the shape of the faith practice. The activities in Exploring & Engaging help us figure out how a faith practice intersects with our life and the life of the community of faith.

## Discerning & Deciding Activities

Practicing our faith always involves discernment so we can name the realities of our world and seek the will of God. We then decide how we will act, what values move us forward, and what faith has called us to do. These activities give us opportunity to practice discerning and deciding.

## Sending & Serving Activities

Practicing our faith involves serving others and being sent out as empowered disciples of Jesus Christ. We need time to plan how we will serve. We need moments that send us forth blessed by the community from which we venture out. These activities offer opportunities to practice our faith through sending and serving.

## Intergenerational Leader Preparation

You are either preparing to embark on a voyage of discovery or joyfully celebrating the conclusion of your journey of working with this faith practice. Beauty is all around us. Beautiful experiences carry over into daily life even after the activities are complete.

Since this is an intergenerational event, you may wish to assemble a planning team of two or three people of different ages to share leadership for an intergenerational event.

Take time to answer and share responses to these phrases: Beauty feels like, tastes like, looks like, smells like, sounds like . . . ?

Next, journal or share aloud how you have experienced beauty in worship. Read the Bible focus passages for this event. Explore the descriptions of the twelve following activities. These have been designed to provide material for special events in the life of your faith community. Additionally, they may serve to provide elements such as hymns, processions, prayers, dramatic sermon illustrations, and scripture for worship. You may plan stand-alone events or incorporate the activities into a worship service.

As individuals, we can experience beauty and give thanks for it as a practice of faith. As Christians we are also moved to worship in a communal setting. Together, we can sing hallelujah and rejoice in the love of our God, whom we know through the living Christ.

### BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:

**Psalm 8**

**Exodus 35:20–29**

**Luke 9:28–36**

**Acts 9:17–20**

**John 12:1–8**

**Revelation 21:1–5 and  
22:1–7**

Consider how you will use the activities and who your participants will be. Conclude your reflection and planning time with the following prayer or one of your own:

*Prayer: O God, majestic is your name and wonderful your handiwork! I (We) give thanks for the beauty all around us in your creation, in our daily lives, and in relationship with you and one another, made real in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Send your spirit to fill all who will participate and lead our practice of experiencing beauty. May we be moved to make your beauty and love visible in this world. In the name of your beautiful son Jesus and on behalf of all your children we pray. Amen.*



## Exploration: Discovery

### 1 Shout Out for Beauty (Easy Preparation) (Exploring & Engaging)

**Leader preparation:** This activity is intended as both practice in naming beauty as we experience it personally and as an icebreaker for the group. You will want to have nametags available. Everyone should wear one, including the leader.

**Supplies:**

- nametags
- colored markers
- indoor or outdoor space with room for the group to work in teams and to be in a circle

Greet the participants and invite them to print their names on the name tags in easy-to-read capital letters. Invite older participants to assist younger ones who may just be learning to write and or young writers to help older ones who have issues with hand strength.

When everyone has a nametag, gather in a circle. Depending on the ages of your participants, you may wish to have some chairs available. Introduce the faith practice of Experiencing Beauty if this happens as a kickoff event to the series. Invite people to turn to their neighbors, first the one on the left and then the one on the right. People will say their names and pass the peace saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.” The response is, “And also with you.”

Divide into teams, pairing older and younger members. People will introduce themselves to one another and share one thing, person, or place that is beautiful to them.

After each partner has shared with the other, return to the circle. Each person will introduce his or her partner by giving the person’s name and the place or thing the partner finds to be beautiful. Proceed around the circle until all have given a shout-out to beauty.

*Prayer: God, we give thanks for all these beautiful things in your creation. Help us open our senses to experience beauty in the world and one another. Amen.*

### 2 Cleaning and Planting (Discerning & Deciding)

**Leader preparation:** In order to deepen our spiritual lives and prepare for a practice of faith, it can be helpful to clear the clutter both literally and metaphorically from our lives. In this way we and the space in which we meet become “clean,” and room is made for the “planting” of a new practice.

Have the group imagine the room as clean with everything put away. Do they see how much space is available for fun activities? In this activity, the group will literally clean up a space and plant seeds or bulbs to grow something beautiful for themselves and others. You will need to arrange for the place and gather the supplies ahead of time. If you do not have a garden spot, this activity can be done indoors with flower pots.

### Supplies:

- bulbs or seeds for flowering plants
- trowels or spades
- watering can or hose
- garden space in the community or church, or flower pots for each participant

Invite the group to imagine a room cluttered with all their possessions. Would it be easy to play or study or think in such a space? Work in intergenerational teams to clean up the area and prepare the ground where you will plant your seeds or bulbs. Pause when the ground is prepared to note how the soil, like our lives, is now ready to receive beauty. Plant the seeds or bulbs. Share with one another some experiences of planting or growing plants. Water the ground and conclude with prayer.

*Prayer: Creator God, thank you for giving us clean hearts ready to receive the seeds of your love. May we, just like these plants, give beautiful witness to your work in creation. Amen.*



## Exploration: Scripture

### ③ Psalm 8 Mural (Discerning & Deciding)

**Leader preparation:** Scripture will come alive in this activity. You will need a place with a blank wall or a large floor space in which to lay out newsprint or table covering paper to make a large mural. Invite participants to wear old clothes, or provide smocks or other covering. Men's old shirts make good paint smocks.

Familiarize yourself with Psalm 8 since it will be the inspiration for the mural painting. This painting can then decorate your meeting or worship space.

### Supplies:

- Bibles
- newsprint or table covering paper
- drop cloth
- watercolor paints
- brushes
- paint smocks or aprons
- cups of clean water for washing brushes
- paper towels or rags for drying brushes

Form teams that include members from different generations. Distribute a Bible to each team. Say that you will read scripture from the book of Psalms in the Bible, which is made up of songs written by faithful Jewish people who lived before Jesus. Jesus would have known these songs, and he might have used them to express his faith just as we do today. The psalm writer expresses his wonder and amazement at God's greatness. Read Psalm 8. Point out that dominion means stewardship or being a caretaker for creation. Humans have a responsibility given to us by God to care for creation.

Next, have the teams look at the words of the psalm together. Let each team choose a favorite image from the words. Invite people to use brushes and paints and move to the paper to paint a picture of the image. It is okay for more than one

team to pick the same image, and it does not matter where on the paper people paint. Encourage them to draw big images to fill the paper.

When everyone is finished, gather to admire the completed work. Then have everyone look up Psalm 8 and read it together in unison.

Prayer: *God, your creation is amazing! Thank you for the gift of the earth as our place to live. Give us strength to be good caretakers. Amen.*

### ④ For the Beauty of the Earth (Exploring & Engaging)

**Leader preparation:** Faith Practices in Experiencing Beauty includes three suggested hymns or spirituals that provide a musical link to the practice. “For the Beauty of the Earth” is one of these hymns. If you are using this at the conclusion of your experience, the group may already know the words. Therefore, you may wish to sing it and then introduce additional songs from your tradition that also speak to beauty and to faith. If singing is not your particular gift, invite the choir director or a participant with a gift for teaching and singing to lead this activity. In addition, you may wish to poll your participants to see who has musical gifts and invite them to provide accompaniment for the singing.

#### **Supplies:**

- hymn: “For the Beauty of the Earth” by Folliot S. Pierpoint (tune: Dix), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHOMXiOKEDQ>
- (optional) hymnals

Remind everyone that singing hymns is one of the oldest faith practices we do at least every Sunday. The words of the hymns are carefully chosen by the writers to tell the story of our faith and our relationship to God. Listen to or sing “For the Beauty of the Earth.” Consider leading the group verse by verse to repeat the words. Invite people to share what colors, images, or experiences come to mind when they hear the words of this hymn.

Have each person name other things, events, people, or places that make them feel like singing a hymn of gratitude. How else might they show God gratitude (praying, dancing, painting, drawing, building, caring, giving, and so forth)? Invite them to mime these actions so that the whole group is moving in some way. After a few moments of action, sing the hymn again.

Prayer: *Creative God, thank you for the gift of music. May our voices raised in praise be heard in the heavens and give witness on earth to our love for you. Amen.*



## Exploration: Discipleship

### 5 Seeing with New Eyes (Exploring & Engaging)

**Leader preparation:** As disciples we are awakened by Christ to new ways of understanding our relationship to one another, to God, and to the world. As we become connected by faith, our judgments about class, race, gender, age, and sexual orientation are overturned. This is at least the ideal. In real life we all have a great deal of practicing to do to live as Jesus would have us live. The situation was no different for Paul, an early Christian leader who lived after the resurrection of Christ. Before his conversion, Paul persecuted Christians. Read about his turning point in Acts 9:17–20.

With the help of Ananias and the intervention of the Holy Spirit, Paul was transformed. He saw his life and the world around him with new eyes. He ceased his past behaviors and committed to living as a disciple.

**Supplies:**

- Bible

Read Acts 9:17–20. Invite conversation about the story, using the notes in the leader preparation. Have people turn and look to the right. Then have them turn and look to the left. Turning from one direction in life to an opposite direction is conversion.

Next, ask the group to form a circle. Talk about how Paul's encounter with Jesus meant he saw with new eyes and then acted in new ways. Ask people to think of some actions that do not represent following Christ. For example, these may be stealing, being rude, or excluding others. People will stand with their backs facing into the circle and silently act out one of these actions. Then they will turn to face into the circle, representing a change. Looking around the circle at the others, they will mime an action that is the opposite of what their earlier actions. Examples might be sharing, being kind, or welcoming others. Invite people to describe in a few words their actions of discipleship.

*Prayer: Jesus, thank you for opening our eyes, hearts, and minds to new ways of being! Thank you for the Holy Spirit and the help of friends like Ananias who lead us to be more loving to one another. Amen.*

### 6 Beauty in Diversity (Sending & Serving)

**Leader preparation:** There is a paradox in Christian faith in that when we are baptized we are made one in Christ Jesus. As the story of Paul's transformation shows us, we are to lead lives in which external differences are not of primary importance. Yet difference and diversity are also what makes God's creation so wonderful. Each creature has unique features. Christ often treasured and uplifted people who were different from the society around them. This is good news for all who have ever felt out of place or rejected.

**Supplies:**

- Bible

Introduce the idea that God created a world of diversity. Have participants name some of the creatures in creation. Challenge them to think of some common animals as well as some unusual ones, such as a tapir, armadillo, or porcupine. Talk

about how Jesus appreciated diversity in people. He broke the rules of his day by befriending and working with people with all different types of jobs (fishermen, tax collectors), with people from ethnic groups or countries different than his own (Samaritans, Syrophenicians), and with people from his own background who disagreed with him (Pharisees). Have the group name some of the differences among the group: age, height, hair or eye color, shoe size, occupations. Have them name their own ethnic heritage if they know it.

Next, read the story from John 12:1–8 of the woman with the alabaster jar who offered praise to Jesus differently than the disciples. Ask people to listen carefully for Jesus' reaction to her actions. Ask volunteers to act out the parts of Jesus, the woman, and Judas as you read. Encourage all to practice noticing and appreciating people who are different from themselves at home, church, and school as they go about their lives in the coming weeks.

*Prayer: God, thank you for all the unique people, creatures, and objects in your creation. Jesus, we praise you for teaching us to live in compassion and harmony with people who are different from ourselves. Holy Spirit, fill us with love and courage to appreciate differences in people and to uplift those who are persecuted for being different. Amen.*



## Exploration: Christian Tradition

### 7 Church Art Walk (Discerning & Deciding)

**Leader preparation:** Praising God through art is as old as the faith itself. Artists made beautiful decorations for the temple in Jerusalem. In this activity, the group will look closely at art and architecture in the sanctuary. You may want to enlist an elder member or pastor to tell the story of artwork, handmade banners, or stained glass found in the church. You will need access to the sanctuary.

**Supplies:**

- Bible
- blank paper cut to 5" x 7"
- black fine-point markers, other colors optional
- (optional) craft supplies such as glitter, beads, yarn, fabric, and so forth

Gather the group in the sanctuary. Look at art in stained glass or banners or in a cross or other symbols that decorate the sanctuary. Talk about how making art to praise God is a very old tradition.

Read Exodus 35:20–29 with the group. Name the parts of the sanctuary, such as the chancel, pulpit, table, baptistry or baptismal font, musical instruments, or altar.

Divide the group into pairs to make their own art. They may draw a Christian symbol or illustrate a Bible verse. If available, have them decorate their artwork with craft supplies to make the art three dimensional. Use this artwork to create an art gallery for the sanctuary or narthex. If you use worship bulletins, reproduce the pictures as original cover art for worship.

*Prayer: God, with willing hearts we praise you! With our artwork we glorify your name! May our drawings be a witness to others of your great love for all creation. Amen.*



### 8 In the Bulb There Is a Flower (Exploring & Engaging)

**Leader preparation:** Familiarize yourself with the lyrics of the hymn “In the Bulb There Is a Flower.” The words evoke the mystery of creation and the wonder of life transformed by following Christ. Think about gestures and body movements that might accompany the lyrics. In this activity, your group will create an original liturgical dance for this hymn. Liturgical dance is one form of worshiping God. You may wish to record the dance with a movie camera or appoint a helper to record the moves for later practices.

**Supplies:**

- hymn: “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” by Natalie Sleeth (tune: Promise), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkWYubdnc7o>
- (optional) piano, pianist, and sheet music for the hymn
- (optional) scarves for the dancers to wear and use in their dance
- (optional) digital camera

Share the lyrics of the whole song with the group. Listen to it and sing it. Invite the group to create an original liturgical dance for the hymn. Divide the group into four teams, one team for each verse. Give the teams time to create movements for their verses. If you have scarves, invite participants to consider using them in the dance.

After time for preparation, gather the group together and have each team teach the other teams their moves, starting with verse 1. Perform the whole dance. Conclude by singing the hymn once more. Stand in a circle for the closing prayer.

*Prayer: God, thank you for the gift of our bodies and the gift of music and of dance! May our dancing praise you and make your beauty visible in the world. Amen.*



## Exploration: Context and Mission

### 9 Spring Clean (Sending & Serving)

**Leader preparation:** Jesus calls all who would follow him to be active in the world—making love visible in healing relationships, working for justice, and sharing freely from the abundance of God’s blessings so that all people might know new life in God. In this activity the experience of beauty will be practiced outside the walls of the church. Identify a location (such as a community park or school yard) in need of being cleaned up.

Invite participants to meet you at the location. Divide the group into teams that include some adults and some children. You will need to arrange for trash and recyclable goods to be picked up or dropped off by a volunteer. Consider arriving ahead of the group at the work site so you can take pictures documenting the conditions before the clean-up.

**Supplies:**

- heavy duty garbage bags, two per team (one for trash and one for recycling)
- gloves
- antibacterial wipes, or access to hot water, soap, and towels for cleaning up

- access to a dumpster or to a pickup truck to haul away trash
- container for collecting recyclable goods
- (optional) camera

Gather the group at your chosen location. Begin the activity with a simple prayer that the work of everyone's hands may turn a neglected place into a beautiful one and that this work might be pleasing to God. Hand out trash bags and gloves to each team. Explain that one bag is for trash and the second one is for recycled products (aluminum cans, glass, paper, or whatever is recyclable where you live). Have everyone wear gloves. Spread out to clean up the area. If you like, take pictures of the group working.

When everyone has completed the task, provide an opportunity to wash hands and clean up. Give people a chance to talk about the experience and what they noticed. Take additional photos showing the difference made by the work. You may wish to bring the photos to your next session to share how this act of service brought beauty into the world.

*Option:* "Adopt" this site and return every three months to clean up. Invite others in your community to take part in this effort alongside your original beauty team!

*Prayer:* *Awesome God, thank you for this opportunity to use our hands to care for your creation and to serve our neighbors as Jesus taught us! May your Spirit fill this place and inspire others to care for your creation. Amen.*

### 10 Transfiguration (Discerning & Deciding)

**Leader preparation:** Familiarize yourself with the story of Jesus' Transfiguration in Luke 9:28–36. Your group will act out the story using a technique called creative dramatics. The actors will mime the parts using facial expressions and body movements to indicate action. Sets and costumes are optional. You may wish to act as a narrator, or appoint one or two people to read the scripture while the others act it out. Although all the people mentioned in the text are men, anyone may play any role. You will need five people for the other human characters. Several people may help hold and move the cloth that is the cloud. If you are not using sets, three people can pretend to be the booths that Peter suggested be made for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

#### **Supplies:**

- Bibles
- (optional) white baptismal robe for Jesus
- (optional) five additional robes for Moses, Elijah, Peter, James, and John
- (optional) white sheet or tablecloth for the cloud

To explain transfiguration to younger members of group, have them think about transformation, which means that something in one state is transformed into something else. Can the group think of something in nature that starts out in one form and becomes something beautiful (caterpillars to butterflies, bulbs/seeds to flowers, tadpole to a frog)?

Ask if people know what transfiguration means. Explain that it is a special word for transformed and that "the Transfiguration" is something that happened to Jesus.

Ask the group to listen carefully to a story of transformation. Read Luke 9:28–36. Ask for reactions. *What was Jesus doing when he was transformed or transfigured?*

*What does God's Spirit call Jesus? Why do Peter, James, and John act as they do? Jesus is transformed and his face and clothes become beautiful while he is praying. Why or how might praying transform us? Have you ever been transformed by prayer?*

Next invite participants to act out this scripture. Explain creative dramatics. Ask for volunteers or assign parts. Invite two or three people of various ages to be reader/narrators of the drama. When all know their parts, position them in a part of the room that will be the stage. Have the narrators stand to one side and read in loud dramatic voices. Everyone else mimes the action. When the drama is finished, everyone may take turns clapping for the others.

Prayer: *O God, keep us awake to the beauty of Jesus! Be with us as we pray and live our lives to your glory. Amen.*



## Exploration: Future and Vision

### ⑩ For the Healing of the Nations (Sending & Serving)

**Leader preparation:** Read Revelation 21:1–5 and 22: 1–7 for images of God's realm. You will need to work with your group to understand the imagery. As Christians, this vision sustains our journey of discipleship. Events such as tsunamis, hurricanes, and earthquakes cause death and destruction. In this activity, your group will prepare kits to be sent to people in times of need. These kits can stand in as an example of God's care in a crisis.

Consider contacting Church World Service, an ecumenical organization, at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) to discover specific contents you will need for hygiene kits, or contact your denomination's missions group for other ideas. Decide on a do-able number of kits, perhaps one kit per team of two people in your group. Invite your group and the larger community to contribute supplies ahead of time. Consider finding out some interesting facts about the place and the people where your kits will go. Your local library's children's department may be able to supply books and materials appropriate to share with all ages. Lay out the supplies ahead of time.

#### **Supplies:**

- Bible
- contents for each kit
- (optional) a map, pictures, or other materials about the country and people who will be helped by the donation.

Gather in the room with the supplies. Read Revelation 21:1–5 and 22:1–7 with the group. Tell how these verses portray a vision of life with God. Ask participants to name the comforting images and beautiful objects and events in the scripture (healing river, trees whose leaves can heal, God who wipes away tears and lives with people).

Talk about a place where a disaster has happened. Share the materials you have gathered about the place and the people. Explain that in both good and hard times we are called to help those in need. Our work can be a visible sign of God's love. Providing help can lead to healing and a restoration of beauty in a broken place.

Point out that as people work together to fill the bags, the group is also creating beauty right here and now. Everyone will work together to fill the kit bags.

Prayer: *Loving God, we thank you for living among us and filling the world with your beauty. We ask that your healing be sent to the people and creatures in [name of place]. We give thanks for all who donated items to help the people of [name of place]. Thank you for this time together to be your hands in the world. Help us always to make your love visible to all. Amen.*

### Over My Head (Sending & Serving)

**Leader preparation:** Singing is an ancient part of Christian discipleship and worship. “Over My Head” is a spiritual originally sung by Africans enslaved in America. In the song one can hear the longing of an enslaved people for Jesus and their faith that God must be somewhere. Eventually this song became part of the African American civil rights movement with a minor change in the lyrics to read “over my head, I see freedom in the air.” Share the origin of the spiritual with your participants or reflect more deeply upon the origins if this song is already a part of your tradition. Prepare to sing it in voices of celebration and joy.

Invite participants to adapt the lyrics to your setting or this faith practice. Some examples of adaptations are given in the activity description. Either call for musicians within the group or invite someone to play the music live with your group.

#### Supplies:

- hymn: “Over My Head,” African American traditional (tune: Over My Head), <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2DLSXYxp6Q&feature=related>
- instrumentalist
- (optional) musical instruments such as shakers, gourds, tambourines, drums
- (optional) computer with Internet access to listen to hymn

Tell the background to “Over My Head” (from the leader preparation section ). Invite the group to learn the lyrics.

Once the lyrics are learned, invite everyone to sing with joy. Encourage movement. People may, for example, raise hands in the air when they sing “Over my head,” hold hands to ears when singing “I hear music in the air,” and point to their heads when they sing “I know there’s a God somewhere.”

Invite adaptations to the lyrics that reflect this faith practice’s focus on beauty. For example, you might sing “Around the church, I see beauty in the people, I know there is a God somewhere” or “Under my feet, I feel the good earth, I know there is a God somewhere.” Be creative, and enjoy praising God in song.

Prayer: *Awesome God, how can we keep from singing when you are our Creator, Christ is our Savior, and your Holy Spirit is everywhere guiding our lives? We give thanks in song for your great love. May we make it visible in the world. Amen.*

### Reflect

Contemplate the beauty in moments of connection between intergenerational participants. Perhaps you witnessed beauty in the senior citizens helping younger children explore creation. Could you see the beauty in the silence before singing or in the prayers lifted up in worship? Remember these moments. Rejoice in God’s handiwork.