

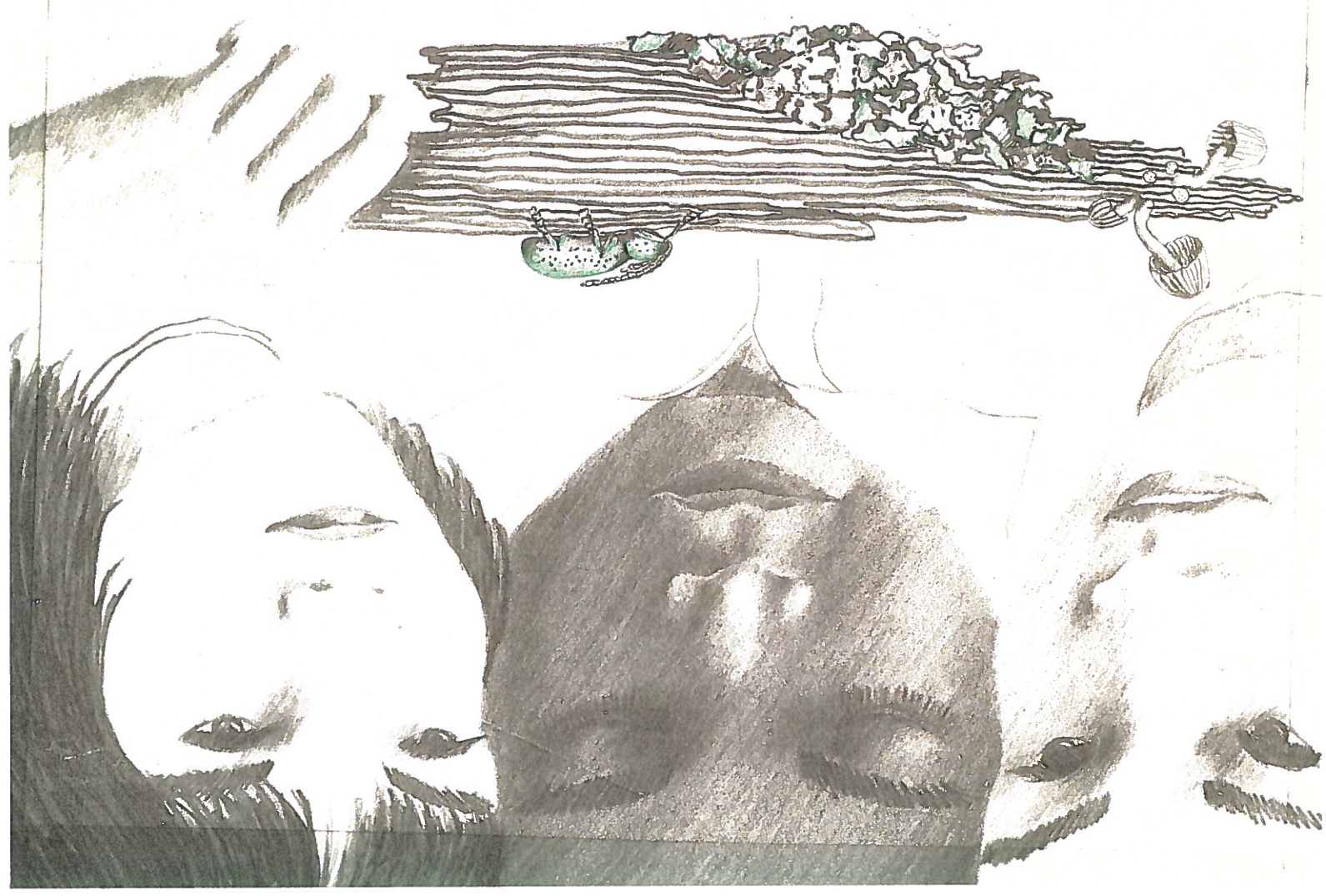


LUTHERAN
OUTDOOR
MINISTRIES
CENTER

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 239 Oregon, Illinois 61061 815/732-2220

1990 SUMMER CAMPS & PROGRAMS IN ILLINOIS & EASTERN MISSOURI

Ants & Bats & Things Like That *ecology of the spirit*



2: and

LEFT: "Barrumph, barrumph!"

2: which was eventually reduced to one language: Froggish.

ALL: Barrumph, ribbit, ribbit, barrumph, ribbit!"

2: And everyone was gloriously happy' . . .

1: . . . except the piranhas, who generally went hungry whenever they ventured up the River Muddy.

HOMILY

PRAYERS, LORD'S PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

HYMN

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING
All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us and sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam;

Refrain: Oh, praise God! Oh, praise God!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O rushing wind and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft:

Oh praise God! Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice,

O lights of evening, find a voice:

O flowing waters, pure and clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear.

Oh praise God! Alleluia!

O fire so masterful and bright,
Providing us with warmth and light,

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Enfolds rich blessings on our way,
Oh, praise God! Alleluia!

The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow,
Let the God's praise abundant show.

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SPEAKING FROGGISH

a celebration of inclusivity

INVOCATION

Leader: Let us celebrate this day:

The God who calls earth home and the home which is the
house of all that God creates.

People: The ecosystem.

Leader: The uniqueness of all creatures in the human and non-human
world.

People: Diversity.

Leader: The human world living intentionally with all of humanity and
all of creation.

People: Inclusivity.

Leader: Let this be done in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

VERSICLES

Leader: Come, Spirit of the living God:

People: Open our lives to be filled with love and power.

Leader: Come, Spirit of wisdom and understanding, Spirit of counsel and
might;

People: Teach us to trust the new life you have given us.

Leader: Come, Spirit of matchless love;

People: Gather and nurture us as one family, empower us to serve
you in all that we do.

HYMN

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Introductory and Concluding Round: Beautiful Savior,

Beautiful Savior,

Savior, Savior.

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,

Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,

Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,

Son of God, and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,

Now and forevermore be thine!

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 28:10-17

VERSIDES

Leader: This is no other than the house of God.
People: And this is the gate of heaven.
Leader: Your home, O God, is more than a tent.
People: It is more than a building.
Leader: It is all of time and all of space.
People: All is your house, all is your home.
Leader: This is also a space set apart.
People: It is a gate that opens for us.
Leader: It is a place where God meets us.
People: It is a place when God meets us.

HYMN

ANTS AND BATS AND THINGS LIKE THAT

warning, and the piranha would pull him from his perch and gobble him for supper.
2: Matters went from bad to worse. In fact, dear friends, the entire frog colony was eventually consumed by the Enemy. Burping contentedly, the piranhas, who thought all the frogs had been eaten, swam downstream. And now the pond was silent . . .
1: and peaceful . . .
2: and frogless. Right?
All: WRONG!
2: Wrong?
1: Two frogs had been hiding during the slaughter of their kind, and now these two frogs left their secret places in the weeds and caught sight

of each other. What a sight for sore frogs' eyes! As far as they knew, they were the last two frogs on earth.

2: Fortunately, one was male and one was female.

1: Unfortunately, the male said:

MALES: "Barrumph!"

2: and the female said:

FEMALES: "Ribbit!"

1: They didn't know how to communicate.

2: But they did know how to follow their instincts!

MALES:

"Barrumph! I wish we could talk together because you're pretty nice looking for a frog."

FEMALES: "Ribbit! I don't know what you're telling me, but I do know that actions speak louder than words."

(at the same time)

MALES: "Barrumph, barrumph, barrumph, barrumph, barrumph, barrumph!"

FEMALES: "Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit, ribbit, ribbit, ribbit!"

2: The results? A bunch of bilingual tadpoles. And because the offspring grew up speaking both languages, a unique new colony developed in which everyone's gifts were recognized and no one felt excluded.

1: The new pond was both serene and civilized, with libraries and churches and theaters, and some provision for the education of the young. The frogs hired a few wise toads to be the teachers.

2: They called their institutions "toad-schools."

1: Not only that, these enterprising young frogs built a radar warning system and a series of electric fences to keep marauding fish out of their pond for occasionally the piranhas returned in search of supper.

2: It was a new day in Frogdom. No one felt superior to another and no one thought of caste or class. Society was a team affair in which everyone's share counted. The frogs all spoke both languages:

RIGHT: "Ribbit, ribbit!"

Refrain: Ants and bats and things like that

Are all part of God's way.

The Word is speaking in the world,

So listen every day.

Did you know that the banana bears a beautiful flower, And it only makes a fruit with the help of bat-power? Even creepy crawly creatures are the work of God's hand. Look and listen when you wander; God is present in the land.

Did you know the ecosystem needs the little to be big.

There's a pollinating wasp for each variety of fig.

Yes, the itty bitty insects give the plants and fruit their birth Big and little are connected in the web of life called earth.

Did you know that all creation interweaves in every way:
And we need a new relation to the world that God has made?
Look and listen to the Spirit breathing life into all things.
Hear the moaning for redemption, hear the song creation sings.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

DIALOGUE

"SPEAKING FROGGISH"

1: Once upon a dream, there was a society of frogs living somewhere in the River Muddy. These frogs were alike in almost every respect.
2: They ate the same flies.

ALL: Ugh!!!

1: slept the same hours,
2: frequented the same lily pads,
1: and spawned much the same sort of tadpoles,
2: which grew into adult frogs that ate the same flies.

ALL: Ugh!!!

1: There was but one major difference between them.

2: Some of the frogs said:

RIGHT: "Barrumph, barrumph!"

1: while others characteristically intoned:

LEFT: "Ribbit, ribbit!"

2: and so they were unable to communicate.

1: Now the frogs that said:

RIGHT: "Barrumph!"

1: considered themselves upper-class frogs. They wore felt hats, and sneered at the frogs whose speech consisted of:

LEFT: "Ribbit!"

1: They snarled:

RIGHT: "We will not associate with anyone who cannot speak proper Barrumph."

1: And they didn't. Nor would they learn to speak Ribbit.

RIGHT: "That's an inferior language. They are inferior frogs! Let them learn to speak properly, then we'll associate with them.
At least, we'll bargain with them for dragon flies. And under

certain conditions, we might even marry them!"

2: But the frogs that spoke Ribbit were just as intolerant. They thought that all frogs were middle class and they were disgusted by those who spoke Barrumph. they didn't consider them upper class, just uppity!

LEFT: "Those felt-hats are priggish snobs!"

2: They complained:

LEFT: "They think they're better frogs because they won't learn to speak our language. Well, then, we won't learn to speak theirs. It'll serve them right."

1: "And furthermore,"

2: said a veteran of many river battles, pausing to lick a dewdrop off a petal with his tongue,

1: "I wouldn't marry one of them if she was the last frog on earth!"
2: And so the two frog clans kept to themselves. They never spoke to each other, and the didn't work together or play together or even go to ball games together. And, of course, there was no intermarriage. Sometimes the tadpoles of both clans, not knowing any better, swam together -- until their parents put a stop to it.

1: This situation continued until the Enemy came. The Enemy was a school of piranhas. Now piranhas are very greedy fish with very sharp teeth which feed on frogs and anything else that's edible.

2: So the frogs' lives were no longer tranquil. Their very survival was endangered. All the frogs in the River Muddy became watchful and wary, ready to leap to safety at a moment's notice. The Enemy was always hungry, always prowling, always devouring. Frogs began to disappear, and everyone in the frog colony was distressed.

1: The language barrier complicated matters. A frog might be sleeping on a rock when a fish loomed near his leg. Another frog, spotting the danger, might shout:

RIGHT: "Barrumph-barrumph!"

1: Meaning:

RIGHT: "Piranha at ten o'clock!"

1: But if the resting frog spoke Ribbit, he wouldn't always get the

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