

Sixth Day of Christmas, 12/30 – Six Geese a-laying



Scripture: Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. **Genesis 1:26-31**

(Jesus said), “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” **Luke 13:34-35**

The song continues “...my true love gave to me, six geese a-laying.” In Genesis there are actually two creation stories. An excerpt of the first story is quoted above. God does the active, exhausting work of creation in six days, and then the seventh day is set aside for rest. That day is the model for our Sabbath. **But the song is focused on the first six days. The image here shifts from the birds themselves (in the first 4 days) to the act of laying the eggs. New life.**

Each of the six days is a different aspect of creation and when God creates on the sixth day it is the living creatures of the land ending with humankind. Another image this calls to mind for me

is Jesus saying that he wanted to gather the children of Jerusalem together as a hen gathers her chicks. Jesus is the blessed one who comes to be with us, to give us new life. Thanks be to God.