

# Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 1

Friday, April 16



**Hocking Hills sky at dawn**

*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8: 1-9*

The psalms can be perplexing when they seem ruthless and vindictive. But they can be just as confusing when they are like Psalm 8. This is the essence of gratitude. Gratitude is the breathtaking awe at the glory of God in and of God's self and at the abundant grace with which God has blessed humanity. We don't often ponder these attributes of God and how they connect with us. The psalmist claims that God has made us just a little lower than the angels. This is the God who created the universe! And God put us in that place of honor.

When we look out of our windows, no matter where we live, we see a sky that arches over us in glorious beauty. There are patterns in the sky. The seasons show us different patterns. Each day is different. The variety of God's creativity is overwhelming and glorious. We have been given a sacred trust from God to act like we are a little lower than the angels. That means that we are in close proximity to God. And therefore, the pattern that we are following is God's pattern. The patterns of beauty, love and hope.

What pattern are you following today? Look up and see what patterns you see that God has traced in the sky for you.