

Thursday - March 24

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:1-4 (NRSV)

On a beautiful June day in 2018, I was hiking solo along a trail cut into the side of a very steep and bare hillside. Deep blue water churned through the boulders in the creek 80 feet below on my right side. It had rained heavily the night before. Birds flew through the canyon that had been created by the creek. There was a breeze in the air. The sky was so blue. I tripped and fell over the edge.

The Dolly Sods Wilderness Area is dotted with rhododendron bushes. They are beautiful plants covered with broad green leaves and beautiful pinkish-white flowers. In this area they usually grow up to around 10 feet tall and are equally as wide. I dropped 6 feet and landed in the middle of one of these bushes. The bush was growing horizontally out of the hillside. I found myself lying face down along a branch inside of the bush. I recovered my glasses from a branch to my right and my hat from a branch to my left. Through the leaves, I could see the water flowing through the boulders directly below me. Birds still flew through the canyon. There was still a breeze in the air. The sky was so blue. Yes, God provides.

Steve

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, thank you for life. Thank you that we are surrounded by so much life each and every day. Thank you that we have each other. For it is from You and You alone that truly gives us all that is Good and all that is holy on the face of this earth. Amen.