before time
before space
before knowing …

In the beginning …
the earth was a formless void
and darkness
covered the face of the deep Gen 1:1-2

a flaring forth
one infinite moment
timing delicate, precise
holding all that is to come
a journey, epic … begun
God’s self-revelation … begun

encounters cataclysmic
stars, galaxies, planets
forming, re-forming
expanding outward
ever outward
magnitude beyond imagining

a planet is birthed
one of many,
but this one …
glistening,
breathing …
the heartbeat of God
Water … intrinsic
sustaining …

abundant …

wild …

Creatures strange
and wonderful
and elusive
find their beginnings
in your watery depths

-
-
-

Landforms emerging …
like some
ancient creatures
from the deep

majestic, bold …
calling, urging

stretching places …
a place to breathe …
to be one with the heartbeat of God

soft earth places
to gentle our souls

secluded places
inviting inwardness
All growing things …
depth,
rich
humus
creating
translucent beauty
smell of earth
touching the earthy within us

shining in the deep places
vibrant and
strong …
heartbeat
reflected

All growing things …
soaring skywards

capturing light
breathing
sharing life

bearing the imprint of
Gondwana
bringing us face to face with
the time of the dinosaurs

and this ancient one …
spark of God,
thought to be lost forever
but found –
living and breathing still
All growing things
don’t surprise
how beautiful you are
tiny miracles
shaped and
formed across
eons
smiling with us
this day

Praise God,
all you creatures
wild …

… and tame

Praise God
all you birds of the air

Praise God, all you insects and creatures that crawl

busily, happily sensing, probing, gathering bee-ing …
do you have an inkling of the majesty of your part
in the plan
of things
you with sunlight
on your wings

And we who share
the emerging story
with all that is …

held in every fibre and sinew of
our body

… the universe now come to
self-awareness and reflection

Every meeting of mind and heart

Every joyous and precious encounter

Every sharing of deep concern

Every deep and anguished moment of compassion

Every enduring connection
Every place of shelter …

… and every place of welcome

… and attending to the footprints we leave upon
this planet
we are ever more conscious
of being part of that great
global heartbeat
Light of evening
sky
you bless us
and beckon us
to look further
and further yet …
to galaxies unknown
and yet …
you bear one small footprint
offering kinship with the still expanding universe …
we are filled with awe … yet gentled in your
Evening Light

blade of grass
bent over with the weight of beauty
miniscule, majestic
reflecting the whole universe
in your wateriness …
but I must bend low to notice –
play-ful in God’s creation

From the beginning until now
the entire creation has been
groaning in one great act of
giving birth …
… and we too groan inwardly
as we wait for our bodies
to be set free Romans 8

Photography and text: Maree Hutchinson rsm
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Scripture texts adapted from: NRSV and Jerusalem Bible