



Laudato Si'



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**
Catholics for Our Common Home



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Trocaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

A young green seedling with two leaves growing out of dark soil against a bright, sunlit background. The seedling is the central focus, with its stem and leaves clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The sun is visible in the upper left corner, creating a bright glow and lens flare effect.

Cultivating a Spirituality of Ecology

Jane Mellett

Oscail Mo Chroí Open My Heart



Oscail Mo Chroí by Deirdre Ni Chinneide





The message of each creature in the harmony of creation

“God has written a precious book, whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe... nature is a constant source of wonder and awe, a continuing revelation of the divine”

“There is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and fall of night”. (LS, 84-85)

“Nature, as a whole, not only manifests God but is also a locus of [God’s] presence. The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship.” (LS, 88)

WALK DON'T RUN By Rob Bell

Walk, don't run.

That's it. Walk, don't run.

Slow down, breathe deeply,
and open your eyes,
because there's a whole world right here within
this one.

The bush doesn't suddenly catch on fire,
it's been burning the whole time.
Moses is simply moving slowly enough to see it.
And when he does, he takes off his sandals.
Not because the ground has suddenly become
holy,
but because he's just now becoming aware
that the ground has been holy the whole time.

Efficiency is not God's highest goal for your life, neither is busyness, or how many things you can get done in one day, or speed, or even success.

But walking, which leads to seeing, now that's something.

That's the invitation for every one of us today, and everyday, in every conversation, interaction, event, and moment: to walk, not run.

And in doing so, to see a whole world right here within this one.



THE WORD IS A HOLY GREENING

verdant and ever-growing...

a green fire...the energy of greening truth

flaming forth...

the green force
of all life.

This Word
manifests
itself in every leaf,
and every
human soul.

Hildegard of Bingen





LAUDATE DEUM



The world sings of
an infinite Love:
how can we fail to
care for it?

(LD, 65)



“The antidote to the ecological crisis is contemplation. To contemplate is to grant oneself time to be silent, to pray, to restore humanity to the soul, the healthy balance between head, heart and hands, between thought, feeling and action” (Pope Francis, September 2020)¹⁰

Personal Eco-Conversion



“Our goal [is to] become **painfully aware**, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own **personal suffering** and thus to discover what each of us can do about it” (Laudato Si’, 19).



Guardian sustainable business

Just 100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions, study says

Stay informed



The Call to Eco-Conversion

“The external deserts in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast. ...For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to a profound interior conversion” (Laudato Si’, 17).

- **Personal Conversion**
- **Communal Conversion**
- **Ongoing Conversion**



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.” (Lk 10:27)

- What does love of neighbour look like in an era of ecological breakdown?
- We must really SEE those on the frontlines of this crisis, victims of climate disasters, displacement of peoples due to sea-level rise, drought, water and food insecurity.
- Preferential option for the poor.



“Our physical destination is COP 24, but our real destination is the mind and hearts of all those we meet on this road.” Yeb Sano, The Climate Pilgrimage



Religions in dialogue with science

- “The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor and building networks of respect and fraternity.
- The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue... always keeping in mind that ‘realities are greater than ideas.’” (201).





The environmental crisis calls each of us to a profound interior conversion

- “Christians need an **‘ecological conversion’** where the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our lives and in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; **it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.**” (Laudato Si, 217)
- Ecological Education & Spirituality across all aspects of our lives, especially our faith, worship and actions.



“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, mountains everything is, as it were, a caress of God” LS 84.



A New Story...

- We are the first generations to know that the observable universe is 13.8 billion years old and that this universe continues to evolve and expand.
- Astrophysicists tell us that our universe began life as a tiny speck which has unfolded over billions of years to form galaxies, planets, flowers, music and you and me.
- Everything is connected and interrelated in this New Universe Story. And while we might assume that this story is in conflict with our faith, nothing could be further from the truth. For as science discovers the how, the great faiths of the world contemplate that which gives life meaning and purpose.





The Wisdom of the Biblical Accounts

- **Creation Theology:** God has created **everything from nothing**, in a free act of unconditional love.
- **Fundamental questions: the relationship of human beings with the world.**
- **The origins of life**, the unfolding of our universe, the evolution of matter from atoms to humanity
- **Paradigm shift: New Story** in light of Big History: 13.8 billion year old universe; 4.6 billion year old earth
- **Movement** from a distorted view of Creation where God was seen as absent from created matter to seeing God in everything, to **unity**.
- Teilhard de Chardin: The goal of the universe, is full consciousness with God. **Love energy was at the heart of the Big Bang.**

DOMINION

“It is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. (Laudato Si’, 67)

The biblical texts are to be read in their **context**, with an appropriate **hermeneutic**,* recognizing that they tell us to “**till and keep**” the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15). “Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means **caaring, protecting**, overseeing and preserving.



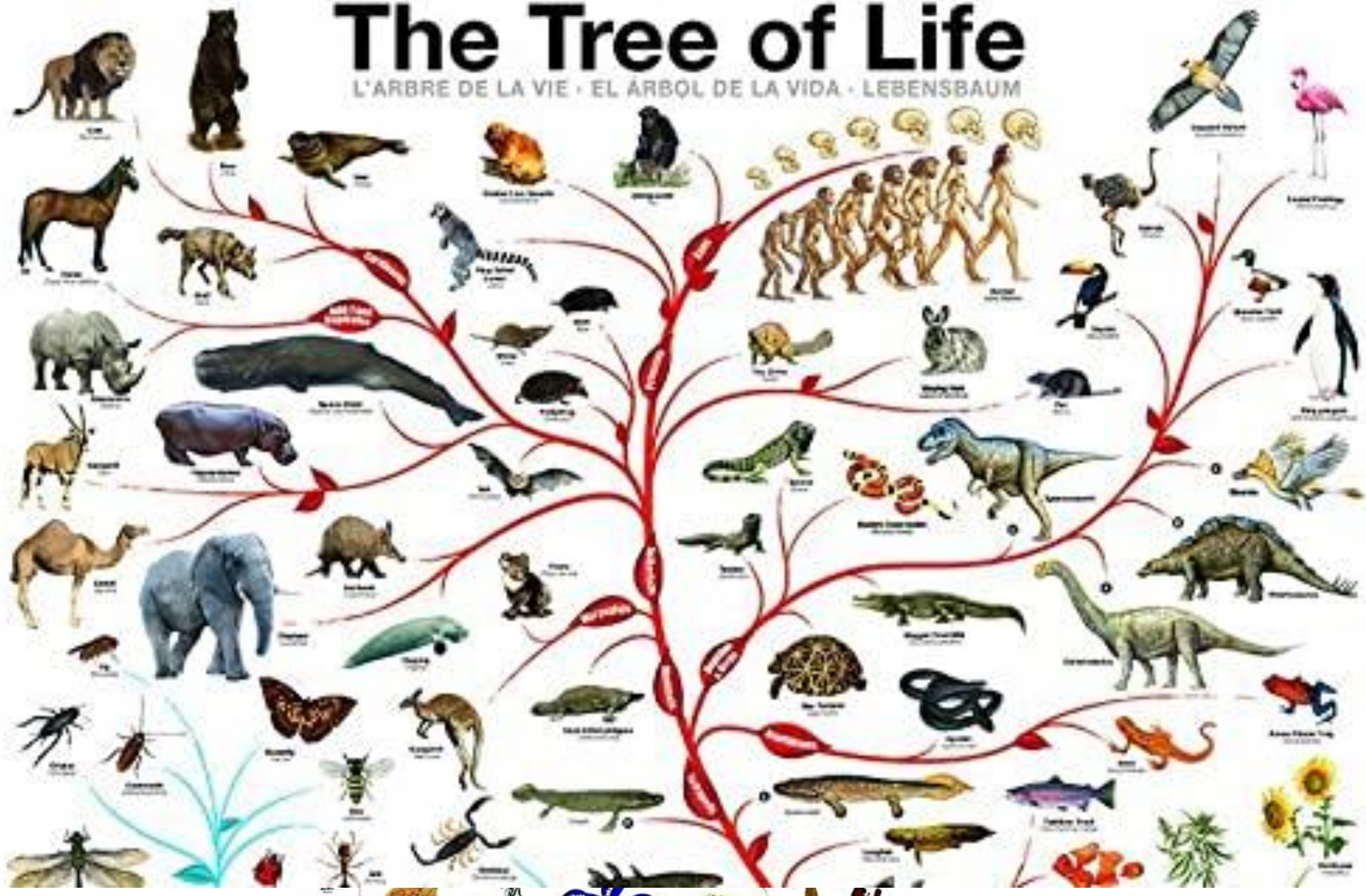
“CARE for Our Common Home”

Taps into something deeper, passion, love.

“This implies a relationship of **mutual responsibility** between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to **protect** the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations... The Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism unconcerned for other creatures.” (LS, 67).

The Tree of Life

L'ARBRE DE LA VIE · EL ÀRBOL DE LA VIDA · LEBENSBAUM



EGO



ECO



“It is not enough to think of different species merely as resources to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves...

Because of us thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us.

We have no such right.”

(Laudato Si’, 33)



The Mystery of the Universe



“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made (Ps 33:6)... Creation is the order of love, **God’s love is the fundamental moving force in all created things.**

‘For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made’ (Wisdom 11:24)...

The love which moves the sun and the stars.” Laudato Si’, 77

The Gaze of Jesus

- “[Jesus]...was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder...’**Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest**’ (Jn 4:35)
- “The kingdom of God is like a **grain of mustard seed....**” (Mt13:31-32)
- Jesus lived in **full harmony** with creation and others were amazed: “What sort of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mt 8:27)
- He was far removed from philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world. Such unhealthy dualisms, nonetheless left a mark on certain Christian thinkers.” (LS, 98)



- Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God, to which he gave form by his craftsmanship... Most of his life was dedicated to this task in a simple life which awakened no admiration at all: 'Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?' (Mk 6:3). (LS, 99)
- "The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence" (LS, 100)
- Col 1:19-20: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." The risen One mysteriously holds **all creatures** to himself and directs them towards fullness.



Joanna Macy's "Active Hope – How to face the mess we're in without going crazy." Three Stories Around us:



Business As Usual



The Great Unravelling



The Great Turning



The Great Turning:

- Turn up....
- Turn away....
- Turn towards...

- What do we need to turn up to?
- ...to turn away from?
- ...to turn towards?

Civic & Political Love

- St. Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise **the little way of love**.... Integral ecology of daily gestures.
- Wherever we find ourselves, we serve God and creation, with acts of kindness, love and care.
- Not all people are called to the same civic engagement, e.g. politics, but each of us are called to some sort of action in the broad civic sphere.
- “these community actions, when they express self-giving love, can also become intense spiritual experiences.” (LS, 232)





“We need to move from ... a spirituality of the divine as revealed in words to a spirituality of the divine as revealed in the visible world about us.” – Thomas Berry

“I ask you to join with me in wondering what people of faith and communities of faith ... might do to mitigate this disaster. I ask you to join with me in reading our world – the ‘Book of Nature’, as the ancients called it.

Alongside the Book of Nature, I also ask you to join me in reading the Scriptures, the Word of God – the other great book of our faith – in a quest for insight, inspiration and strength so as to live in a new way on this earth, our common home. Nothing less is called for. The earth cries out to us.”



The Cry of the Earth – *The Cry of the Poor*

THE CLIMATE CATASTROPHE – CREATION'S URGENT CALL FOR CHANGE

Archbishop Dermot Farrell

Lectio Divina with Nature



“To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope”. This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since “for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice.”

(Laudato Si' 85)

THE CHAPLET

Praised be you, my God,
through Brother Air. x10

Praised be you, my God,
through Sister Water. x10

Praised be you, my God,
with all your creatures. x10

Praised be you, my God,
through Mother Earth. x10

Praised be you, my God,
through Brother Fire. x10

*Optional chant (between decades)
"Laudato si' mi signore"*



GAIA – Cobh Cathedral – June 2022

The mesmerising Earth sculpture by artist Luke Jerram, suspended high above the cathedral aisle in Cobh, features spectacularly high-res imagery of the Earth's surface provided by NASA.

It is designed to give onlookers 'the overview effect' — a phrase first coined by Frank White in 1987 to describe the feelings of awe that astronauts experience when they view Earth from space.

- Bishop Crean said the artwork provides an opportunity to renew our appreciation for the Earth and how we care for it as our ‘common home’.

- “Caring for our planet is as important now as it has ever been, and this exhibition gives us all a chance to sit, reflect, and refocus on our common goal to make our planet a better place in which to live,” he said.



Ecological Spirituality

... helps us to “discover God in all things,” both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

- Regularly include Laudato Si' themes in reflections and shared prayers
- Promote the Season of Creation annually and other key dates – World Environment Day, LS Week, World Bee Day, COPs, Tree Week...
- Speak about Laudato Si' within the community
- Make Laudato Si' study and prayer guides available
- Bless a natural space as a reflection or meditation area and regularly pray outdoors
- Provide space for eco-spirituality practices, such as Meditations on the Elements; St. Francis Chaplet; Lectio with Nature...
- Visit another faith community to discuss your social and ecological initiatives



LAUDATO SI' GOALS



In the spirit of integral ecology, hope for the Earth and the Poor.

www.laudatosiactionplatform.org



Prayer: Ecological Spirituality

- Celebrate the **Season of Creation** in every parish. 1st September, World Day of Prayer for Creation – October 4th Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.
- Prayer of faithful each Sunday for protection of Our Common Home; For political leaders to take action;
- Liturgical celebrations for key dates: Laudato Si' Week (May 23rd 2022); Earth Day (April 22nd 2022); World Environment Day (June 5th); World Bee Day etc.
- **[Liturgical Resources from LS Working Group:](https://www.catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si/)**
<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si/>
- Ecological Examen www.ecologicalexamen.org
- LS Quote in Newsletter every week for one year.



Key moments of the year:

- Season of Creation – 1st Sept – 4th October
- Laudato Si' Week – Week of May 24th each year

Marking days such as:

- World Environment Day (June 5th)
- World Oceans Day (June 8th)
- National Tree day (October 7th)
- Fairtrade Fortnight (February)
- World Bee Day (May 20th)

Bringing a spirituality of ecology into all that we do so that we live the call to a true integral ecology



One of the goals of the Laudato Si' Movement is to move Catholics towards Ecological Conversion & to nurture an Ecological Spirituality.

Wednesdays 5pm on zoom - online Community Contemplation practice.

- Ecological Examen: <http://www.ecologicalexamen.org/>
 - Loving Kindness Meditation
 - **Meditation on the Four Elements**
 - St. Francis Chaplet
 - Lectio with Nature
 - **Meditating on a special place in nature**
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- To join us on Wednesdays please register at <https://laudatosimovement.org/event/wednesday-community-contemplation/2022-07-20/>



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**

formerly Global Catholic Climate Movement



<https://laudatosimovement.org/download/laudato-si-movement-prayer-book/>

- Sign up for our Laudato Si' Network newsletter.
Contact laura.madrigal@trocaire.org



- Join our Laudato Si' Animators Ireland Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/393651241505729>
- Download the Laudato Si' Prayer Book: <https://mail.laudatosimovement.org/landing/prayerbook>

“Truly, much can be done!” (LS, 180)



Pause for discussion

- What have you heard this evening? What has stayed with you?
- How do you see the role of faith communities in the environmental movement?
- What are you already doing in relation to the Laudato Si' Goals?
- What gives you hope?
- Where do you feel you are being called to at this moment?



Malita on her farm in Machinga District, Malawi.
Photo credit: Muiru Mbuthia, Trócaire.

You are invited to attend the
St Patrick's College Maynooth

ANNUAL TRÓCAIRE LECTURE

Climate Justice and Catholic Social Teaching: 'Everything is connected' and 'No one is saved alone' *Laudate Deum*, 19

'Let justice flow like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.' Amos 5:24

Rehahan Hall, St Patrick's College

Tuesday, 5 March 2024

7 p.m. GMT

The speaker is **Rev. Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator SJ**, former president of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar and current Dean of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, California.

**The event will also be live-streamed.
Registration for this event is required.**

**For information please email:
Frances.Harnan@trocaire.org**



Trócaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD



“Let us sing as we go.
May our struggles & our
concern for this planet
never take away the joy
of our hope.”

“Truly, much can be
done!”

Laudato Si', 244 , 180

Lent 2024

Let justice flow like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing
stream (Amos 5:24)

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