



And God said, "Let the earth bring forth
living creatures of every kind:
cattle and creeping things and
wild animals of the earth of every kind."

And it was so.

God made the wild animals of the earth
of every kind, and the cattle of every kind,
and everything that creeps upon
the ground of every kind.
And God saw that it was good.

— Genesis 1:24-25

"Daisy" is an Araucana chicken who lives in the coop behind our house. She is determined to keep her block safe. To that end, her brood clusters under her wing, peeking out from her soft downy chest. Early in the morning, Daisy wakes us to announce to our small Vermont farm that once again she has laid an egg. Her day begins as she and her brood follow the sheep, eating the worms behind them.

Daisy keeps us mindful of the reality of our lives. Instead of living in anxiety about our daily busyness and waking every morning with the stress we carry to make more money, to buy more things, Daisy reminds us that 870 million people in the world are hungry—not because there is a lack of food, but because the abundance of creation is not available to whole populations of people.

Has our enjoyment of food on our table become disconnected from the creation of God's good earth? The awareness of our living

earth, our abundant harvest, our happy chicken is fundamental to our stewardship of creation and our love of our neighbor. Daisy lives in the deep grace, abundance and interconnectedness of all of creation—the weather, clean water, clean air, healthy soil, our cohabitation with creation and our neighbors. Our awareness of the abundance and goodness of creation is the beginning of loving our neighbors.

— Lisa Ransom

*Almighty God, whose loving hand
has given us all that we possess:
Grant us grace that we may
honor you with our substance,
and, remembering the account
which we must one day give,
may be faithful stewards of your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

— For the Right Use of God's Gifts,
The Book of Common Prayer