

Friends,

I've always considered it a great honor when birds build nests near my house, and this year I have been triply honored.

I've written before about the bushtit nest in the live oak behind the MPC manse. Bushtit nests look like the dwelling places of fairies: they are constructed from moss and spider webs and they hang like camouflaged socks from high branches.



Near the live oak is a lemon tree which doesn't produce many lemons but has become a home for a robin family. The robins in question constructed a perfectly round nest and have used the lemon tree's broad leaves as curtains, both to hide from predators and (or so I assume) to create more shade during these hot days.



The third bird's nest in my life is actually under the eaves of the church office, facing the courtyard, and is home to a nesting pair of house finches.



The birds that nest near where I live and work remind me that the earth does not belong to humanity, but rather,

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof;
The world, and they that dwell therein. (From Psalm 24)

and that

[God] causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of [humanity]: that [they] may bring forth food out of the earth;
And wine that maketh glad the heart of [humanity], and oil to make [the] face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth [the human] heart.
The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;
Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house.
(from Psalm 104)

Knowing that the earth and its inhabitants—human and otherwise—belong to God and are nourished and housed by the hand of God should change how we think about the earth, about humanity and about animals.

May we remember that we share the world we are privileged to call home, and may we work to be better neighbors to those who are live alongside us, partaking with us in the beauty and bounty of God's good earth.

God's Peace,

Ben