## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN (GENESIS 1)

"Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

After creating the heavens and the earth and all the things in it, the Holy God gently began creating out of the dust of the earth. The very idea of it seems comical – the great Creator of the universe playing in the dirt. And yet here we have a beautiful scene where that Almighty God came close; it was a holy moment. God made the dirty dust of the earth holy ground by creating humanity. God created with purpose and care, breathed life into Adam, and declared it to be "good."

We are, each one of us, beautifully created beings. While we may not have been created like Adam out of the dust of God's holy ground, we are each uniquely created beings, beloved, and full of potential and worth. We are good. And what God sees as good, we need to see as valuable. When we recognize ourselves as part of God's holy work, we honor God. As we strive to "be holy, as God is holy" we further honor God.

Even when that first man sinned, he was beloved and sought after by God. He still had within him that potential for holiness, because he had encountered the Holy God. When we encounter Holy God, we cannot help but be transformed. God comes close to us, shapes us, and breathes into us life. The potential is there for us to carry that holiness out.

Do you see yourself as beloved and created with potential for holiness? In what ways is God shaping you in this season? How can you rest in the knowledge that you are "good"?