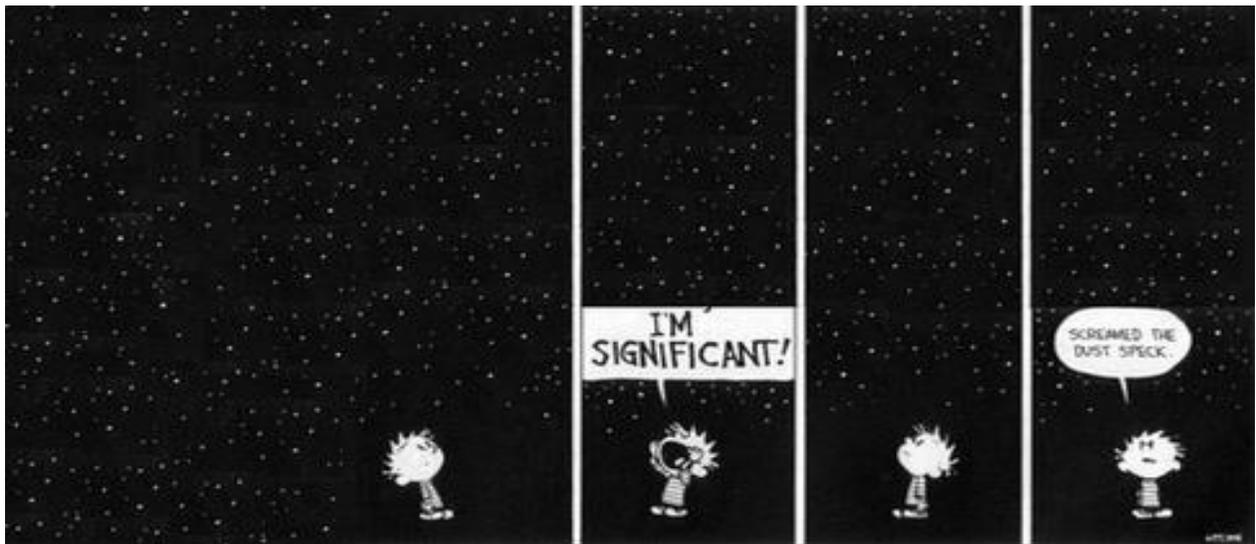


## Stars in the Sky

One evening during my holiday as I was getting ready to go to sleep, I happened to look out the window and noticed that the sky was incredibly clear. The moon and stars were shining in an abundance and so instead of going to bed, I decided to go out into my backyard and just sit in the quiet stillness. Eventually I found myself laying in the grass and looking up into the night sky and I was, as I often am, overwhelmed by the vastness of the cosmos. There really was something about that night, the stars seemed to be shining with purpose; almost like their flickers were coordinated by some unseen hand. I have always appreciated the lessons that looking up into the stars has taught me, the most important of which is too not take myself so seriously. Though my concerns and worries may seem like everything in the moment, when you take the time to look at all that is around us, one quickly realizes that there is so much more to this bountiful creation than the small foot print left by me or by any of us.

It reminds me of a cartoon strip that I saw as a child, I thought I would include it for you to enjoy as well. It comes from a series which in my opinion is one of the best cartoon series ever made, "Calvin and Hobbes."



The genius of this cartoon strip speaks to the lesson that I have learned and will continue to learn time and time again, which is that I, we, are but a small piece of this vast creation and that's not a bad thing. I don't find that lesson that Calvin is learning in this comic strip to be hard or painful to hear, rather it reminds me that even as a small piece of creation, I am still a part of creation. As tiny little specks of dust compared the vastness of creation around us we still have worth, have value, still are loved by the one whom we call the creator. We are all an important part of this vast array of life and even though our individual troubles or our collective struggles seem overbearing at times, the vastness of the stars flickering in the sky cannot help to affirm the line from our creed which says, "we are not alone," for indeed we are part of much bigger community of creation than we can imagine.

I also cannot help but be reminded that as part of creation, what I say or do within this creation matters. Our words and actions matter. Even as a dust speck is comparison to the rest of creation each of us matters; if you doubt that, think back to the last time a tiny piece of dust got in your eye, certainly that little thing meant a great deal in that moment. Now not every day is going to be a good day, we will all

trip up and say and doing things that maybe we regret later on, but just like the stars shining in the night sky when those days comes we can turn to another's light for guidance, to help us move beyond that which has held us back. One never knows when the light that flickers within us will be that light that guides another. One never knows when we will be that light which offers warmth, or assurance to one who finds themselves covered in shadow. I agree with Calvin, "I am significant," but I, nor any of us, are not more significant than the person next door, or the person half way around the world, or that star that shining in the sky; we all have value. We all have worth. We all are a part of the community of creation.

Our Christian faith includes an account about a star. It may be a little early (season wise) to draw your attention to that account, but that star which guided people to hope is what each of us is called to be; a guiding light, a light of hope, a flicker of love. Even though there may be billions of other lights just like ours, does not make the light that we offer any less significant. Rather it becomes a chorus of creation, a reminder that together, when grounded in hope and love, that what we offer matters, and what we receive from others matters. It is incredibly important, particularly in a time like what we are living in today, to remind ourselves that what we do and what we say means something, not just to ourselves, but to our wider communities.

We are not alone and that is significant, that is good, that is a lesson found in the stars.

Blessings to you all.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Adam Hall