

## Why We Should All Be Talking About *Children of Eden*

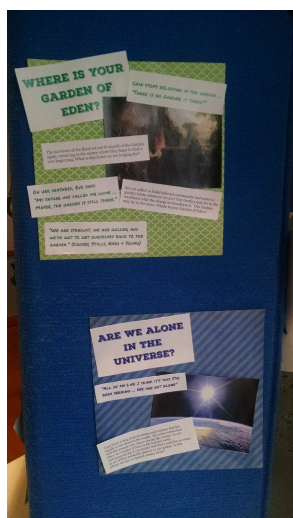
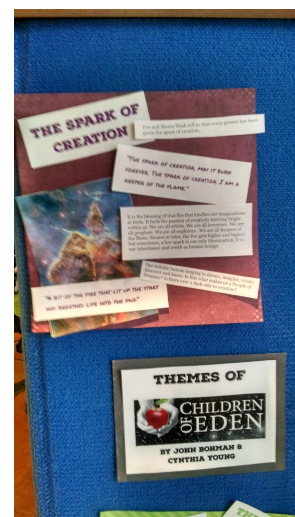


Dear RE Families and Volunteers,

I know many of you already have plans to see the Chalice Theater production of *Children of Eden*. I saw it this past weekend, and I want to put in my own special plug. *Children of Eden* is based on the book of Genesis, and explores several of the themes we cover in RE, from themes of family to themes of responsibility.

For those of us studying our fourth Source, “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves,” as the fourth and fifth graders are currently doing, this is an excellent opportunity to engage with another telling of stories they have heard and wrestled with, acted out and responded to. This would also be a great supplementary experience for those middle schoolers studying Neighboring Faiths, in which we visit local houses of worship, and those asking the “big questions” in Riddle and Mystery in the sixth grade.

Aside from the re-telling of the Genesis stories, which manages to pull together a lot of modern concepts to try to explain unanswered questions from the text (such as how did Cain find a wife?), the Chalice Theater community did something even more remarkable. If you go to see the production, you'll notice in the hallway a display of pictures and thought-provoking reflections. Suitable for the young and the old alike, these reflections ask questions such as, “Is there ever a dark side to the creative process?” And as the powerful, creative beings we are, what is our responsibility to the world's creatures, as well as its rivers and lakes, mountains and trees?



Of the things that nearly moved me to tears, it was this masterful connection of the production with the very questions we are asking ourselves today, right now, in this congregation and beyond. The Chalice Theater's thoughtful care to helping guide such questions and connections to “How then shall we live?” is, to me, an excellent example of why this community is so important, and how it can help enrich, inspire, and empower us to live as we believe... and do it together.

So, if you are thinking of going, I hope this convinces you to go. Then, talk about it afterwards! (And don't miss the display.) There are three 3:00pm matinee performances: March 8, 14, and 15, which might work well for families (evening performances are Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm). RE staff and volunteers are working with Chalice Theatre to support group gatherings, and perhaps even a potluck with members of the cast and production team! If you need child care for very little ones, the church can provide it.

It's been a long winter -- let's use this as an opportunity to enjoy a great production together. Keep an eye out on RE emails this week for updates. And, if you want to go on your own, here's the link for tickets:

<http://coe-uucava.eventbrite.com>.

Sincerely,

*Erica Madousoy*