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## Embrace the Joy of Creation

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Spring is here. New life is shooting up out of the ground, and blossoms are bursting open on the apple, plum, and pear trees. The blueberry bushes and strawberry plants are flowering. It is a season of new creation, and I am energized by it. It makes me eager to make something.

It's a joyful thing to make something and see the labor of our hands, whether that be a garden, a loaf of sourdough bread, a woven or knitted scarf, or something else entirely. And some of us may have spent the last year experimenting with making homemade bread and pasta, creating our own greeting cards for the holidays, or making a scrapbook for our kids or grandkids.

For me, one of the most joyful parts of creating are my many failures when I try something new, and it doesn't quite turn out the way I had envisioned. I came to appreciate that attitude from Adam Savage, television personality

and energetic co-host of the TV series *MythBusters* on the Discovery Channel. He often remarked and reminded his viewers with a smile, “Failure is always an option.”

Failure can be valuable if it’s looked at in the right light. If you view your failures as a lesson learned, even if what you learn is what not to do, then it can be seen as growth.

That’s not to say I don’t get frustrated with my failures; I do! It’s often a joyful frustration, though, a contest of skills between me and myself, and I know that eventually I’ll get there – or not.

Sometimes I hit the point where I realize that what I’m trying is just too far beyond my current skill level or the tools I have at hand, and I realize I need to put a pause on the project or scrap it altogether. Somehow, though, I don’t see that as wasted effort, because making the effort to try to create something new is a reward in and of itself.

As we embrace our role as God’s co-creators in the world, we flex a bit of that divine spark that is in all of us, that glorious and holy Imago Dei or Image of God in which we believe we are beautifully made. Our scriptures tell us that God finished creation, and said it was “good.”

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31).

Certainly, this means the creation was good, but I think God might also have been referring to the act of creation itself. It feels good to make something.

So, join me in being a maker this spring. Whatever appeals to you – bake a cake, make a greeting card for a friend, plant an herb garden in an egg crate for your windowsill or some zinnia seeds in a sunny spot outside. Most importantly, embrace the joy of creation.