God yearns for life,
And God weeps at death.
God yearns for life-
“Abundant life” as John puts it in chapter 10
And God sheds real salty tears in the face of death.
When Jesus walks to his friend’s grave, he sees people mourning,
He is “greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.”
Martha- that great planner- learns Jesus is en route
And she catches him on the road.
“Where have you been!?” She cries, furiously.
Can you hear the agonized fury in her voice?
Lazarus- her brother is dead.
Then Mary comes to Jesus sobbing.
She’s hurting just as deeply- Lazarus was her brother too!
Jesus wants to do something to make things right.
But first, John tells us, “Jesus began to weep.”
He loved Mary and Martha and Lazarus.
And he cried with them.
This compassion transcends religious creeds
Compassion is central to Buddhism.
Rahmana is the term in the scriptures of Israel
and Rahman is the Arabic version in the Qu’ran

Our compassionate God yearns for life,

And God weeps at death.

The scriptures sing God’s song of life.

Genesis tells us that everything

The creeping things in the soil and the soaring birds of the blue sky

The groaning monsters of the deep

The water lapping against rocks,

The majestic trees unfurling into the sunlight

And even humanity-

Hairy negligent primates that we are –

Everything is very good.

Creation tells of a God who yearns for life.

The author of psalm 104 was mesmerized with Creation’s beauty

“God set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.”

Can you feel the rocky stability as God sets Earth on its foundations-

Firm like granite?

Then God “Covered Earth with the watery depths as with a garment;

The waters stood above the mountains.”

We feel the swirling, harmonic creation all around us,

“O God how many are your works.

In wisdom you made them all.”

Now we can say: Star dust plus time equals us.
And so we stare wide-eyed with gratitude
Yes, God, this “sunlit mossy stone” is very good.
God yearns for life.
And God weeps at death.
“The mossy stone is grieving”
All that we’ve learned at this conference
Tells us that Earth’s systems are in danger.
The climate change train speeds toward destruction,
And we can’t even find the brakes.
Species are going extinct 1000 times faster than normal.
Human population will reach 9 or 10 billion by mid century.
Poisons persist in air, water, and soil.
Access to clean water is routinely denied, or impossible.
Death is in the air.
And God weeps.
Out of compassion for the creation God loves so very much.
God wails.
God sobs.
God shudders quietly,
The way you cry when someone you love is dying.