

This hymn, my second one about creation, places the discoveries of modern science in the context of Christian faith. My understanding of the science concepts alluded to has been greatly illumined by Hans Küng's book, *The Beginning of All Things: Science and Religion*. 2005; Engl. trans. John Bowden. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007. Because the earth and everything on it is ultimately traceable to the stars, we are kin to it all; our destiny is linked with that of the earth. Such a connection urges a greater sense of responsibility on our part in relation to the earth. The "beautiful blue ball" recalls the stunning image of "Earthrise," the photograph of the earth taken from space on December 24, 1968, during the Apollo 8 mission. Scriptural allusions are to Psalms 8:4 and 144:3.