

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore.*

—Revelation 22:1-3

At the beginning of the Bible, we are given a vision of a garden called Eden that holds a tree of life. At the end of the Bible, we are given a vision of the city of God, and in the middle of that city, on the banks of a river, there is yet again a tree of life, whose leaves are made for the healing of the world.

The tree of life—whose leaves drip with oil, whose bark can be made into teas, whose roots can be ground and eaten—is our eternal gift. The tree of life, made for healing, is the first and last vision of the kingdom. It reminds us that God’s healing is sewn into the very fabric of creation. It runs deep beneath our feet, and it will carry us through our lives until we reach the heavenly kingdom.

Creation holds so many gifts for our healing; we are graced when we turn toward it.

—Becca Stevens