

WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David  
October 28, 2012

Early Morning Service in the Season of Creation

**Then God said, "Let us make  
humankind in our image,  
according to our likeness;"**



**Introduction to Theme:** Here, on “Day 6”, we come to the creation of humankind and the interconnected web humanity shares with all of creation. What is our true place in the created order? (Silence to consider our response)

Hymn: O Lord of every shining constellation

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**Prayer:** *“Holy Spirit, Enlivener, breathe on us, fill us with life anew.*

**In Your new creation, already upon us, breaking through,  
groaning and travailing, but already breaking through,  
breathe on us.**

*“In this new creation, already upon us,  
fill us with life anew.”*

**Ponder the scriptures: Genesis 1: 24-31**

**And God said,** "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**For reflection:** What is the meaning of being made in God’s likeness (imago dei)?

**Prayer of Confession:** *Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful.*

**Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change.**

*In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the*

*implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth. May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made, and love. We pray for world leaders to agree to a new, just and radical treaty that will protect our fragile world for future generations. Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. Amen*

(from Climate Change Day of Prayer)

Quiet reflection and conversation

Hymn: As man and woman we are made (vs. 1 and 4) **596**

Invitation: And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you. It is our Lord's will that those who want to find God should meet God here."



The peoples who kept alive this wonderful poetic narrative of the beginning of things, until it was recorded superbly in Genesis, were consistently and sharply clear about priorities. On the sixth "day" of creation, the animals, including humankind, are created. But only humankind is created "in our image, according to our likeness"; there is absolute equality here between male and female; and God gives them "responsibility" (Petersen's better paraphrasing

of the Hebrew phrase "have dominion") over the whole of creation. So we are left in no doubt at all – as far as this narrative is concerned, God's original plan was to devolve the care for the whole of creation upon humankind. The fact that we have consistently messed up, doesn't seem to me to alter that initial plan – we just need to be humble enough to constantly ask for help, and determined enough to keep on working at it – the ball is still at our feet.

Hymn: "Let all things now living"

**338**

*Are you ready to accept this gracious invitation? We are ready! Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty. We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come! We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . . "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance. In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said, "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."*

"Behold the Lamb of God"

**525**

*Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . . We participate in the Body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing... We participate in the new life Christ gives. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! Come, for all things are ready!*

Communion

Hymn: Live in Charity

**501**

**Dismissal:**

*The light of God surrounds us;*

**The love of God enfolds us;**

*The power of God protects us;*

**The presence of God watches over us;**

*Wherever we are, God is, and all is well!*

Hymn: May the Lord bless

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