

## Genesis 1

Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.

In the beginning. Oh, to have been there. In the beginning when the world was formless and void. In the beginning when there was nothing. In the beginning when there was only God. In the beginning, before all things. To have seen the first, the very first spark of light, to have heard, for the first time ever the sound of water running and splashing. To feel, for the first time in existence the earth beneath your toes.

It's something to think about. In the beginning before people God decided what should happen and God ordered the universe likewise. God had a plan and God **worked** to put that plan into action. God worked through those times and created everything and everything perfectly. And then we are created next. The pinnacle of creation. And we are endowed with this gift, it's just given to us. What kind of God does this?

We are to be Co-creators with the divine. With the one who has done everything perfectly, has made and followed every plan to date and executed them all flawlessly. That one picks us to work equally alongside.

So, as you may know that doesn't go so swimmingly. You could say it was like picking a 3 year to build a mansion with and having the expectation that they are going to be doing half the work. It's not going to end well. And so far, it's not going too well either.

It's important to recognize that "Creation" wasn't a one and done thing. Creation wasn't done in 6 days or set off with the spark of the universe. Creation is what is happening this very second. We are creating as we live and breathe and move and think. And we are doing this with God right now. Creation is a continuous flow. It takes everything that is put into it and builds into this mighty rushing torrent. God is constantly adding to this.

We are constantly adding to this. Though what we have been adding has been a bit lacking since those first days of creation. In fact, we should probably be ashamed as to what we have added to this flow of creation. I'm not up here to get all doom and gloom on you all. But words of justice must be spoken. Where we are. In our beautiful idyllic Northwoods homes. We are so lucky. We are so blessed. And we hardly know it and we are not protecting or caring for this blessing. We think that all this pollution and climate change will hurt everyone else, that we don't have to worry about it, that it's everyone else's fault. But the problems are here right now for us to fight and care for that which we are called to take care of. Right here we have toxic oil threatening to destroy pristine wilderness and we have poor farming practices that are poisoning our wells. Right here. And then there's everywhere else.

What is upon us, from our own lack of forethought, from our own greed and mismanagement, is so bad. But there is hope.

There is hope because we are not alone in the act of creation. We are created Co-Creators, beloved children of God. We are working next to **and with** the one who started this all with nothing but words. Nothing is impossible with our God. We are a people of resurrection. When things seem the worst, our God is at work. We are a people of restoration and rebirth. We are made whole and new by our God. We can do that same thing with creation. It is such a robust and miraculous system that we are working with. And so many people are trying....

Slides

I'm not saying there is some silver lining to this Crisis at hand but what I am saying is that is showing us a roadmap to what is possible. IT is possible for us to do something right now. Small changes now make for bigger changes downstream. Big changes now mean huge changes downstream.

There is this story in the bible about Ester. She becomes a queen in a foreign land. She faces this choice, possible death or let her

people die, and her uncle Mordechai says this line to her. “Maybe you are here for such a time as this.”

This is what you are here on this earth to do. To be stewards of all creation. To protect and to use appropriately. To live in and help thrive. We are not destroyers or conquerors. We are walking in the garden that we are growing with God.

C.S. Lewis has this quote-

“If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road.”

So that means there is no magic way to go back, no teleportation, no way to change our choices from **the beginning**, we have to start here, where we are and change how it ends.

God is already moving, it’s time for us to put our gloves on and get to work. Amen.