

Grace Presbyterian Church

June 9, 2023

9:30 am

VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
beliefs,
and those who are cognitively
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,
**each one engaged in ministry,
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,
and embodying God's love for the world.**



“And God saw that it was good, very good!”

Welcome and Announcements

Introduction to our worship and study format,

Guidelines for discussions

- Wonder out loud
- Listen to understand
- Do not judge or correct but offer another way to think about it.
- Invite others to share

Opening Song; “Morning has Broken”

Introducing the practice

“Care for Creation; Appreciation God’s Abundance”

Initial thoughts, questions, wonderings?

Finding the practice in Scripture (bible study)

Genesis 1:1-2:4 (CEB)

When God began to create the heavens and the earth— the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters—

God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared.

God saw how good the light was.

God separated the light from the darkness.

God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other.”

God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way.

God named the dome Sky.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

God said, “Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear.” And that’s what happened.

God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas.

God saw how good it was.

God said, "Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth." And that's what happened.

The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind.

God saw how good it was.

There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. They will be lights in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth." And that's what happened.

God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night.

God put them in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

God saw how good it was.

There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

God said, "Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky."

God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind.

God saw how good it was.

Then God blessed them: "Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife." And that's what happened.

God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground.

God saw how good it was.

Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”

**God created humanity in God’s own image,
in the divine image God created them,
male and female God created them.**

God blessed them and said to them,

“Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it.

Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground.”

Then God said, “I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food.

To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food.”
And that’s what happened.

God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed.

On the sixth day God completed all the work that he had done,
and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done.

God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

And all the people said it is good, very good! Thanks be to God.

Questions for discussion at your table:

Take a moment to take what God has created.

What caught your attention in the text/story?

What questions or challenges does it raise?

How are we to be in relationship with creation?

Song: “He’s/She’s Got the Whole World in His/her Hands”

Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus was teaching on the mount when he said

“Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes?”

Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are?

Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes?

Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth.

But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these.

If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, won’t God do much more for you, you people of weak faith?

Therefore, don’t worry and say, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’

Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Questions for reflection:

How does this text speak to God’s creation and our relationship with it?
Is there reason to worry today?

Finding the practice then and now (examples/illustrations)

Can you think of examples/practices?

How do you practice appreciation of creation?

Practicing the practice (active response)

How will you practice appreciating the abundance and beauty of creation this coming week?

What habits might we (this congregation) engage in that will foster healing and care for creation?

Offering

Prayers of the people

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Response "Kum ba yah"

Following Jesus. (summary and charge)

Benediction