

Create “Together”

July 29, 2018

Our Savior’s Way
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
Pastor Labuhn

Creating “Together” is our theme for this Sunday. Creating, in the sense that we make things from that which God has originally created. Because Scripture makes clear that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing when He spoke His Word, and by Him all things were created.

Creation is truly amazing. From the creation of the stars in the universe with all the planets, to the magnificent landscapes on earth, to the fantastic colors throughout the seasons, to amazing plants and animals, to how everything is intricately woven together. God has created this beautiful and amazing world in which we live. And yet, in Genesis 1 verse 26, God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” In doing so, man was and has been the crown of God’s creation.

Yet, man has always had an interest in creation, because the act of creating is the very essence of life. But so often what we tend to create most is sin. If you recall, in the beginning Adam and Eve wanted to create a way that they could be like God, by knowing good and evil. And while they were punished for their sin, God graciously made garments to clothe themselves. Yet sin continued even more, to the point where God decided to destroy the earth with a flood. Through Noah and the animals in the ark, God saved a remnant and created a rainbow in the sky as an

everlasting reminder, that never again would there be a flood to destroy the earth.

Since then, man has increased and has ruled over all of God's creation. We have used what God has made for good to our benefit and for the benefit of the rest of creation. We have used what He has made to create things of our own. Some of this has been beneficial and some has not worked out as well. Like our sin, our garbage and pollution has been changing God's creation which has been and continues to groan in this bondage of sin. And while we know right from wrong, we often act like we are our own gods, if only in our minds, where we justify the sins that we create against God, against creation and one another.

Have you ever wondered how a worm gets inside of an apple? Maybe you were like me, thinking that perhaps the worm makes its way in from the outside. But I recently read that the worm comes from the inside of the apple. In fact, an insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. And later, when the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, it simply eats its way out. And sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through man's thoughts, words, and actions.

Throughout the Old Testament, God has created solutions to our self-created problems with sin. He clothed us with garments to wear. He placed reminders in the sky to see. He gave us His commandments to learn and follow. He allowed us to build places of worship so that we might know how to best find Him. And through it all, He has been faithful in all His covenants. Yet, we continue to create sin in our lives, in the lives of others, and throughout His creation.

Yet, God also created a New Testament through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. So that through Him, we might be free from sin, clothed in His righteousness, and receive eternal life with God. His Spirit calls us to this faith and creates within us new life through the waters of Holy Baptism. It's at the Baptismal font that we become a new child of God and are brought into the family of God. St. Paul reminds us of this today,

when he wrote, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all. Yet it's a grace that's given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Ephesians 4:5-7).

A little girl was visiting her grandpa at his house. While she was there she crawled up onto his lap and asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?" To which he answered, "Oh, yes, my dear, God created me a long time ago." Then she asked, "Did God make me, too?" Her grandpa said, "Oh, yes, my dear, God created you a little while ago." She thought about that for a little while. Then she said, "God's been doing better work lately, hasn't He?"

This past week, there has a lot of excitement at our Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School. The children who attended enjoyed learning from God's Word that no matter if they're lonely or worried, whether or not they struggle or do something wrong, or even feel powerless, Jesus rescues. In so doing, not only did we built up the body of Christ through our own children, we also created new friends, helping to make disciples with the children who attended from our surrounding community.

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus tells His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the of Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that He has commanded. And He will be with us always to the end of the age. In doing so, followers of Christ use their gifts to further His Kingdom. While we might fail from time to time, together as God's people, we can create a powerful witness together in our community and especially to those children who attend our Open Arms Christian Child Development Center.

Today, as part of our "Create Together" theme, during our 9:30 am service we gathered together to create pieces of artwork that we can hang on the inside of the playground and give witness to the children as they play outside that God has created us to be together. Yet, we also have a video for you this morning, of one of our members, Kyla Jenkins who is also a High School art teacher here in Loudoun County, sharing with us what "Create Together"

means to her. Let's take a look...

[<https://vimeo.com/280460797/4ad9a3e4b6>].