

Message #1038  
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"THE WORD AND CREATION"  
{John 1:3-5}

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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"THE CREATION"

James Weldon Johnson {1871-1938}  
{A Negro Sermon}  
And God stepped out on space,  
And He looked around and said,  
"I'm lonely—  
I'll make me a world."

And far as the eye of God could see  
Darkness covered everything,  
Blacker than a hundred midnights  
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,  
And the light broke,  
And the darkness rolled up on one side,  
And the light stood shining on the other,  
And God said, "That's good!"

Then God reached out and took the light in His hands,  
And God rolled the light around in His hands  
Until He made the sun;  
And He set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.  
And the light that was left from making the sun  
God gathered it up in a shining ball  
And flung it against the darkness,  
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.  
Then down between  
The darkness and the light  
He hurled the world;  
And God said, "That's good!"

Then God himself stepped down—  
And the sun was on His right hand,  
And the moon was on His left;  
The stars were clustered about His head,  
And the earth was under His feet.  
And God walked, and where He trod  
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out  
And bulged the mountains up.

Then He stopped and looked and saw

That the earth was hot and barren.  
So God stepped over to the edge of the world  
And He spat out the seven seas;  
He batted His eyes, and the lightnings flashed;  
He clapped His hands, and the thunders rolled;  
And the waters above the earth came down,  
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,  
And the little red flowers blossomed,  
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,  
And the oak spread out his arms,  
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,  
And the rivers ran down to the sea;  
And God smiled again,  
And the rainbow appeared,  
And curled itself around His shoulder.

Then God raised His arm and He waved His hand  
Over the sea and over the land,  
And He said, "Bring forth! Bring forth!"  
And quicker than God could drop His hand.  
Fishes and fowls  
And beasts and birds  
Swam the rivers and the seas,  
Roamed the forests and the woods,  
And split the air with their wings.  
And God said, "That's good!"

Then God walked around,  
And God looked around  
On all that He had made.  
He looked at His sun,  
And He looked at His moon,  
And He looked at His little stars;  
He looked on His world  
With all its living things,  
And God said, "I'm lonely still."

Then God sat down  
On the side of a hill where He could think;  
By a deep, wide river He sat down;  
With His head in His hands,  
God thought and thought,  
Till He thought, "I'll make me a man!"

Up from the bed of the river  
God scooped the clay;  
And by the bank of the river  
He kneeled Him down;  
And there the great God Almighty  
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,  
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,

Who rounded the earth in the middle of His hand;  
This Great God,  
Like a mammy bending over her baby,  
Kneeled down in the dust  
Toiling over a lump of clay  
Till He shaped it in His own image;

Then into it He blew the breath of life,  
And man became a living soul.  
Amen. Amen.

#### CREATION

"And God stepped out on space!"  
...God was all that existed  
...there was nothing else but God's eternal being.  
And far as the eye of God could see  
Darkness covered everything,  
Blacker than a hundred midnights  
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,  
And the light broke,  
And the darkness rolled up on one side,  
And the light stood shining on the other,  
And God said, "That's good!"

At the moment of light and darkness in James Weldon Johnson's poem, the Word moves from OUTSIDE HUMAN TIME INTO HUMAN TIME through the sphere of creation.

That same moment is expressed in the words: "God said, 'Let there be light;' and there was light!" {Genesis 1:3}

It is also found in "Through Him {the Word that was with God in the beginning...and the Word that was God}...through Him ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE that has been made." {John 1:3}

God has chosen to work out a plan of salvation for us in the context of our created world and human history.

...by the act of creation God set in motion the events that will become clearer "in the fullness of time..."

...events that will be completed at the end of time!

Our text of the morning places before us THE GOD WHO WAS OUTSIDE OF TIME COMING INTO HUMAN TIME TO WORK OUT THE PLAN OF OUR SALVATION!

This is Advent--in both His coming and His coming again!

#### CHRIST THE CREATOR

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians elaborates on our text from John's Gospel when he writes...

"CHRIST IS THE VISIBLE IMAGE of the invisible God. HE EXISTED BEFORE GOD MADE ANYTHING AT ALL and is SUPREME OVER ALL CREATION! CHRIST IS THE ONE THROUGH WHOM GOD CREATED EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN AND EARTH. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see--kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. EVERYTHING HAS BEEN CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM. HE

EXISTED BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE BEGAN and He holds ALL CREATION together!"  
{Colossians 1:15-17}

One of the unique aspects of our faith is the affirmation in Scripture that Jesus Christ is the creator of ALL things!

...as the "Word" He conveys the mind and thoughts of God

...as the "Word that became flesh" He gave us a visible image to the "invisible God."

...as the "Word that was with God in beginning" everything was created through Him  
Thus, we have through insight into the Trinity even in the first book of Genesis...

"In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the SPIRIT OF GOD was hovering over the waters...then GOD said, 'Let US make man in OUR image, in OUR likeness...'" {Genesis 1:1-2, 26a} ..."OUR image" can only refer to the "visible image of the invisible God"..."the Word that became flesh"...Jesus.

We are therefore created in the likeness/image of "the Word" that "became flesh"-- Jesus Christ...God with skin!

JESUS WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL CREATION...HE IS THE SOURCE FOR ALL LIFE!

There would be nothing without Jesus!

And...{hold on}..there is coming a glorious day when He will create yet again and "make all things new!"

...until that time He is sustaining all creation--without Him there would be no life...only chaos and emptiness!

But, also during the interim between the creations mentioned in Genesis and Revelation...Christ is creating and recreating life.

"Through him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. IN HIM WAS LIFE, and that LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it!" {John 1:3-5}

...only Jesus can bring deliverance from the power of sin!

...only Jesus can offer new life

...only Jesus can offer to light up our lives with His light

...only Jesus can provide abundant life that is done by creation within

"If anyone is in Christ, they are a NEW CREATION; the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ..." {II Corinthians 5:17-18a}

...He transforms {recreates} within our hearts and lives

...and He creates NEW LIFE {just as in Genesis He created life...and He has given ETERNAL LIFE!}

Again, in Colossians we read..."Christ {has} created a this new nature within you!" {Colossians 3:10}

Jesus brings new life...spiritual life...eternal life!

Now..."In Him we live and move and have our being." {Acts 17:26|

...everything is centered upon Him

...all life evolves around Him.

...there is none other!

...ONLY Jesus!

## CONCLUSION

Christ...the "visible image of the invisible God" who "created all things" is the one...s

...who can make all things new in your life...and mine.

...who can offer life with meaning, purpose...

...life abundantly

...life eternal.

Have you experienced His recreative power in your life?