

We're going to have a reading now, we can't think of God as Creator without thinking of the story of creation, and it's quite a long passage, and I know we all know the story of creation but sometimes we forget order and different bits about it. So Genesis 1

[Reading Genesis 1:1-31]

So we're thinking this morning of God the Creator and about what the passage we read tells us about God and about us. So the Bible says in Revelation chapter one that God is the Alpha and Omega - this means he's the Beginning and the End. Revelation 4:11 says "You are worthy oh Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and power for you created everything and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created." This tells us that God will still be worshipped as creator of the earth even at the end of time. The Bible highlights in Genesis and Revelation that God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit was there at the beginning of time.

What else can we learn about God?

God created everything. John 1:3 says of the Word that "through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that was made." Imagine all the creature you can think of, from the smallest bug to the largest animal - just let them run through your mind; maybe imagine them - and then just pause and wonder at God's creativity in thinking of all the different shapes and sizes. I have no idea what the very smallest life form is - I don't know - or the very very largest. When we think back to the favourites that people called out and we wrote on the flip chart we need to remember what we believe about how the earth was formed - it was God who created everything, and the Bible can help us understand his purpose in creating it as he did. God was pleased with what he had made. At the end of almost every day that God created the Universe he examined his work, and he saw that it was good, it was very good.

Remember we talked about favourite parts of creation. So many parts we think are good. I was going to say "stars" because when we were travelling back from holiday one year we were travelling overnight and it was a very clear night, out in the country, there were no houses, no lights on, and we stopped and got out of the car and looked up at the sky, and it was just a mass of stars - something we don't see in Croydon - but it was totally amazing and we just stood and looked up, and it was just, wow, God knows each one of their names: he created every single one of them. We need to sometimes remember more than we do, and express our gratitude to God for his creation.

God provides for creation. God entrusted his creation to the care of human beings and he provided green plants as food for everything. In that same chapter we read: "God said, 'I have given you seed bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food, and I have given all the grasses and other green plants to the animals and birds for their food. God originally provided food for everybody, so how is it there are so many millions in the world that go hungry? That shouldn't happen. How good are we at sharing with those in need? What can we do to help other people that don't have enough, even in our own country here there are families that are not eating very well; we have food banks. We can reach out to help them, but there are some many people that don't have a chance, and maybe they are blessed if they have one little bowl of rice every couple of days. People in the world are hungry and they shouldn't be. God gave us the job to keep the food in fair supply for everybody, and so often we fail on that.

Jesus shows us what God is like. John chapter one tells us that Jesus' life reflects the glory, the truth and the kindness of God. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are made in God's image, so this means that we too should reflect the glory, the truth and the kindness of God. However, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God it meant we no longer reflected God as he originally intended. Jesus is the perfect example of how we should live, and only with his help can we be the people that God intended us to be. What do the passages say about us?

Made in the image of God. The Bible says in that passage in Genesis that we are made in the image of God. How, knowing that, does that make you feel? This unique identity that we're like God, we're made in the image of God, gives us both enormous worth and great responsibility to imitate God in the way we live, act and think. I wonder if I asked you to pretend you're looking in a mirror, how would acknowledging this identity make you feel about yourself? If was to ask you to use three words to describe the person you are looking at in the mirror, would they be positive, or would they be negative? Maybe a mixture? Father God loves you as you are; we don't have to go through life thinking we are not worth very much because God says we are - we are worth an enormous amount to him.

We are given responsibility for the world. I expect you can all think of many examples of human beings neglecting this purpose and responsibility. The growing problems of climate change, pollution and poverty are partly due to not having the love and respect for creation that God wanted us to have. I was reading an article in the paper of not many days ago saying that they've done research onto animals from the sea, and they've found that in so many fish and sea creatures they're full of tiny little micro particles of plastic. So when we eat fish, or sea food, we're eating plastic - the plastic that man has made has gone into rivers - and one of the worst fish affected are sardines. We're eating plastic! And it's because mankind is not looking after the earth that God has given us to look after. What can we do, if we do anything? Are we willing to try and do something? Or are we just happy to leave it to others? We should think about what we can do. Fortunately before Coronavirus the use of plastic was going down, but, of course, that has caused another problem in that there are millions of masks being thrown away, there are millions of plastic gloves being thrown away; water bottles, aprons in hospitals, plastic PPE equipment is all being thrown away and having to be got rid of. So we need to pray that, maybe, in the not too distant future, we can start working how to save our planet.

Those who accept and put their faith in Jesus become children of God. John 1:12 tells us that those who have faith in Jesus have the privilege of being God's children. When we examine the character of God the creator, how huge, powerful and awesome he is, and then consider he's willing to call us his children, how can we be anything but lost in wonder, love and praise? The songs that we heard at the beginning: who are we that God is mindful of us? Who are we that God sent his only son Jesus down to die on the cross so that we could become his children? We can have all our sins, all our wrong doings forgiven and we can call him father Abba, father - and that expression "Abba, father" is not just a light hearted expression, it was a very serious, a very respectful way of saying father to say "Abba", and yet we can say to God the Creator: "Abba, father, thank you for loving us."

So remember this week that this amazing God, this creator God, loves you as you are. So the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord reveal more of his greatness to you through his creation and may you seek to be more like Christ every day. Amen