

Sermon for 2017 Yr A Pentecost
Preached Sunday June 4, 2017 at St. James', Mount Vernon
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In the beginning!

In the beginning God got it all started!

In the beginning there was nothing, chaos. Out of this nothing, God saw infinite possibilities.

And God said, let it be like this, and God created this universe, this world, all of this. Heaven and earth, light and dark, sky and water, earth and ocean, plants and trees. Sun and moon and stars, birds and fish, animals and bugs, human beings. Let it be like this.

God created this Creation.

How else could Creation have been made? We don't know, because God made it like this. This is the only creation we know.

And God saw that it was good.

Let's start over... In the beginning!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was with God when God created, and the Word was how God created. God spoke creation into being.

But God saw that the Creation he had made and given to the care of humankind was faltering, foundering back into chaos, falling away from Him and His love.

And so he sent his Word into the world, in the person of Jesus Christ, to redeem and restore Creation, to affirm its goodness, to restore us to life in his love, eternal life.

God said, let it be like this: love God, love one another, serve one another, care for the poor, the downtrodden, the outsider. Bring food to the hungry, help to the helpless, hope to the hopeless. Let it be like Jesus.

How else could Creation have been saved? We don't know, because God saved us, in this way, through Jesus Christ. This is the only salvation that we know.

And God saw that it was good.

Each of our lives retells the story of these beginnings, of creation and redemption.

In the beginning we are created, born naked and innocent. And God knows that we are good, as every baby is beautiful and good. In our infant innocence we are at one with God.

As we grow up, as we grow into a sense of self and separateness, we also grow apart from God. We make ourselves the judges of our own lives, deciding what makes us worthy, or not. We create obstacles between us and God.

And so God sends Jesus into our lives, to redeem us, to restore us to life grounded in God's love. Jesus shows us how to live, and more than that, Jesus shows us how to be.

In the beginning God saw that all he created was good. God continues to call us back into the goodness of life with him. Baptism is how we return to that life of goodness, the sign of the new beginning that we have in God through Jesus Christ. Baptism is the beginning of new life, when God re-creates us in his image. And once baptized, we make that new beginning whenever we remember the promises we receive through baptism: that God loves us, and that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.