

The Beginning Of God'S Work

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In this sermon, Pastor Debbie reminds us that we are called to join God in the act of creation, reflecting the love of God to the world around us.

"I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. " --Proverbs 8:30b-

31 (Originally Preached on Sunday, June 16, 2019 at Pleasantville

Presbyterian Church)

Sermon: "The Beginning Of God's Work"

[0:00] From Proverbs, Chapter eight. The Lord created me at the beginning of his work the first of his acts of long ago,

Ages ago I was set up at the first before the beginning of the Earth, when there were no deaths. I was brought forth when there were no springs abounding with water before the mountains had been shaped before the hills.

I was brought forth when he had not made Earth and fields or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there when he drew a circle on the face of the deep

when he made firm the skies above when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the seas its limits so that the waters might not transgress his command.

When he marked out the foundations of the Earth, then I was beside him like a master worker.

And I was daily his delight rejoicing before him, always rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

And now my children listen to me Happy are those who keep my ways The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[1:26] Please pray with me. Oh God, may the words of my mouth and the listening ears of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight.

Oh, God! Our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

[1:44] How can God be three and one at the same time?

That's what Trinity Sunday asks us to think about how can God be God and Jesus be God and the Holy Spirit be God. Is there one God or three.

The Trinity is a way to explain that God is one that we are worshipping the God the Israelites worshiped since the beginning. That calling Jesus. God doesn't change that.

Our text from Proverbs takes one element of the spirit of God wisdom and shows us that that part of God was present from the beginning.

It tells us that in creation we already begin to see who God is and how God works.

God created. And the presence of wisdom was present.

The spirit of wisdom, of delight, of rejoicing. They are part of creation.

They're part of God. God works in creation with a joy that inhabits the created world.

And we try to understand that joy as a giving of the gift of Jesus.

[3:03] The love of Jesus shows us who God is.
The Holy Spirit with us shows us who God is.
This is a message that says we are not alone in this world. Just as God is not alone in creation.
In the majesty of creation, there is a sense of the majesty of God In the beauty and the complexity of the world we live in.
There is witness to the beauty and complexity of God.
God's hand is in it. And when we see it, we know that it points us toward God.

[3:47] The garden. It's been on the screen. Today was part of my life for five years at Cedarkirk, the camp that we served in Florida, the Presbyterian camp there. It's a prayer garden designed in the shape of a trinity.
It points toward the faith filled, ever flowing water of a fountain,
showing as creation the spirit of hope in a garden made for butterflies and the cross that is the witness that tells us God so loved the world.
The garden was created by human hands pointing beyond itself to the ultimate creator.
We were created to be creative,
to create love and joy and beauty that delights the Lord to let who we are, meet the world where it is and be genuinely ourselves,
be who we are created to be.

[4:54] A few years ago, Evan did a favor for our family.
Cali was singing somewhere, and she needed someone to play with her, and he wasn't going to be able to play with her, but he recorded a song so that she would have that to sing with.
Now I had heard that song, as you might imagine, probably 100 times played by wonderful people and I turned Evan's recording on and I got tears in my eyes.

[5:28] Because Evan was in it. Because the way he plans the depth that he brings to the music it wasn't there until I heard him play it.
We are created to be creative by our creator,
and we're called to bring who we are into whatever moment we're living into, whatever we're doing,
reflecting love and light as the Creator gives it to us.
Now behind me, there's going to be another painting.
Okay, So in that painting there is faith and there is brokenness and there is hope and there is light and there is love,
and there is delight.

[6:32] And if you keep looking at it, you'll see all of it.
The complexity of life acted out in the hands of that painter,
showing us more than we can say in words about how God works in the world.
Where do we see and recognise the creator at work?
Creating, it's not easy.
We may have to look below the surface. On top are theories like the winner is the one with the most stuff, or climbing on the ladder requires you to step on other people along the way.
That's the lens with which we can see life if we choose to.

Or we can hear words like this from Mark Twain.
Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

[7:43] God's creation has beauty and mystery and majesty available to all people right in front of our faces.

God's creation has wisdom as we see it in this passage, delighting in humanity, playing, rejoicing, being part of thankful for creation.

It's not usually what we think of as wisdom.

How does it change your definition to see it personified as it is in this passage, full of joy and delight?

How does this passage help you reflect wisdom in your daily life.

We get the chance to lead into the kind of compassion that witnesses to the one who loves the world, more than we can imagine to reflect to love,

the one who first loved us when it's easy and when it's hard to be there for people when they need us to show up, not just when it's easy, but when it's challenging.

We have a chance to reflect the love of the one who created us, who tells us that nothing can ever separate us from God.

[9:05] So did you see the end of Nicholas Mahut's tennis match in the French Open?

We watch sports in my house. It was the third round and he lost and he was a Frenchman and he felt that he had let down everybody,

and his eyes were filled with tears and he was sitting trying to get his things together.

And his eight year old son ran out of the stands to hug his dad to hold his hand to reflect the love that he had been loved with.

I don't get to just be there for the celebration.

I get to be there to help you walk off the court.

[9:53] Frederick **Buechner** once said that every 24 hours, God creates something new out of earth, air, fire and water that if we think we're seeing the same show all over again seven times a week,

you're crazy that every morning we wake up to something that in all eternity never was before and never will be again.

And the me that wakes up and they you that wakes up.

I was never the same before, and we'll never be the same again either.

[10:28] God creates and we are created and the story of our lives doesn't stop until it does.

And even then it lives on in the lives we touched along the way God creates and the creation moves and chases and deserves to be honored for what it is.

A gift, a blessing, a literal ground to stand on.

[10:56] God creates.

[11:01] May we be true to the beauty of God's creation as it lives and breathes in us In Jesus name, Amen.