

## WELCOME 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 21 Pentecost '21 B

Psalm 8

Welcome! As much of our state is moving out of lockdowns & seeing an end to restrictions, we're meeting in homes via our online capabilities for a couple of weeks simply because we didn't want to separate & segregate our family in Christ by virtue of vax-status. So I pray that you've gathered in groups as you are able, praying for & encouraging each other as you know how & are digging into the Bible together as you should...& to help w/ that...There are Group Study & Discussion resources for you to use over the course of the week & our Zoom Catch-up on Friday. As God leads you into the fullness of His word/work in your life he will then introduce you to someone who needs to hear the good news from you.

**As we move into this week...**On Christmas Eve 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 read the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 verses of Genesis as they orbited from the dark side of the moon into the light of a lunar day. The next year, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin rocketed away from the moon's surface & left behind some discarded equipment, a US flag, & a silicon disc inside an aluminum case. On that disc were greetings from various world leaders & the words of Psalm 8.

*O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens...  
When I look at the night sky & see the work of your fingers;  
the moon & stars you set in place what are mere mortals that you should think about them,  
human beings that you should care for them?*

When one considers the vastness of the universe from the widest possible perspective...God's creative hand, God's majestic design, God's immeasurable beauty & wisdom become clear. *I believe in God the Father Almighty Creator of heaven & earth.* Everything we see around us points back to an original design, direction & purpose. The Bible tells us who/where/what that is. The Apostles' Creed confirms it. The Church confesses God who is Creator.

But even more, God who created the vastness of space & the intricacies of our world also created you...a creative masterpiece uniquely crafted by his own hand, according to his perfect design w/ a clear purpose to bring delight, joy beauty & love to this world. God creates, sustains & satisfies all he has made & enables us to join Him in nurturing his creation toward thriving fullness.

**THAT GOD...**the Father Creator wants you to know him...to experience his goodness in all things at all times...to comprehend the depth of his love for you & his desire to bring you into his life now & forever...We'll experience & share that together today.

Let's pray ...then we'll get stuck into it.

### FAITH CHAT

1. What do you think is the most amazing/weird/beautiful creative act of God you've ever seen in this world?
2. What makes you an original (don't sell yourself short)?

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We're still looking at the Apostle's Creed...little by little because it takes some time to explore the whole thing.

Today: *I believe in God the Father Almighty Creator of heaven & earth.* Creator of everything that is.

You know...I once heard someone say that everything we know of earth & space was the leftovers of a big explosion. Just a whole bunch of hot & explodey stuff bashed into each other & went BOOM! & living things were the result like a big accident.

Well...I reckon we can test that. I've got some building blocks in here & the picture says it makes a house...log cabin.

So I'm going to make something like an explosion...or an earthquake...say BOOM

Hmmm...that didn't seem to work. (Read verse 3-4)

You are not an accident. You are alive because God thought you would be an awesome addition to your family & his world. God made you on purpose & for a purpose...to know him, to experience his love every day & to share in caring for his beautiful world & the wonderful people he put around you...family, friends, folks at your church, school, neighbours...so that everyone can know how much God loves each one of us...

Let's Pray...

## 21 Pentecost – '21 B – ANCIENT CREED: LIVING FAITH – GOD WHO IS CREATOR

The other week I went for a haircut. As the young lady was working, I must have been smiling because she stopped, looked me in the eye & asked me what was funny. I told her I had been watching her hands. Scissors, comb, razor moved in swift well-coordinated unison around my head while we made small talk. I was awestruck by her mastery of the tools of her trade. A slip here or bobble there & I'd have been bleeding. But she never faltered. My neighbour is a blacksmith. I've watched him craft beauty from heated metal & a well-placed hammer or vice bend. We've visited the glassworks in Canberra & as a child my family would often visit a glassblower's shop in the central hill country near Wimberley, TX. I am transfixed around such artwork & keen craftworkers...Skilled tradies of any sort...same thing.

*O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens...*

*When I look at the night sky & see the work of your fingers;*

*the moon & stars you set in place what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?*

David begins w/ awe...wonder at the glory & majesty of God whose creative wisdom & might has stretched the sky above the firmament of earth...has rightly ordered the mystical world of whirling planets & shining stars...Brought forth the liveable world of wind/rain, seedtime/harvest, ocean/desert, forest/mountain...Called up the living world swarms of fish, flocks of birds, herds of animals. And at the pinnacle...placed the human world. Male & female he created them...in God's own image & likeness he created them.

WHAT ARE MERE MORTALS...is the question the psalm asks of God the Creator...The answer is 4-fold. We are: **WONDERFULLY MADE**...Inside the enormity of space & the grandeur of our world we seem quite small & insignificant. But somehow WE, & nothing else are in God's image. Handcrafted Ps 139 says "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body & knit me together in my mother's womb." "A little lower than" God himself...Adorned above any other creature w/ glory & honour...Only w/ us has God walked & talked as w/ a friend...Only to us has God entrusted his character to be like him. Only w/in us has God planted eternity...given us a hint that we are not made for the fleeting tragic end of this world & all that is in it, but are designed & destined to live w/ God forever...created to be re-created in a newness that never ends.

**INCREDIBLY LOVED**... God *thinks about us...cares for us*...When we are troubled or hurt God experiences our pain Ps 56:8; *You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.* God provides food & shelter & beauty to the animal world & maintains the liveable world

in its majesty...but only we are carried in God's heart. Only to us has God entrusted his Word...called us as his very own children. Only to us has God sent his one & only Son to draw us out of sin death & the thrall of evil by his own life given for us. Pope Benedict XVI: "We are not some casual & meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary." Jn 12:32 "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

**ABUNDANTLY BLESSED**... "I believe God has created me & all that exists. He has given & still preserves my body & soul & all their powers. He provides me with food & clothing, home & family, daily work & all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger & guards me from every evil. All this God does out of fatherly & divine goodness & mercy though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely out to thank praise serve & obey him. This is most certainly true." To say "I believe" is to acknowledge the richness & abundance you have received from God who stands above, behind & in the midst of every breath you take & every beat of your heart & every word & task of your day. God has not created only to walk away disinterested...Heb 1:3 *The Son radiates God's own glory & expresses the very character of God, & he sustains everything by the mighty power of his word. The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need...my cup overflows – Ps 23:1, 5* You are never an afterthought to God or his intention to see your life flourish w/ fullness...*I came that they may have life, & have it abundantly. Jn 10:10*

**INHERENTLY RESPONSIBLE**... *You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority...But that authority...“dominion” is not to simply take for ourselves, but to tend & nourish & bring delight, joy beauty & love to this world. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Eph 2:10 Ps 72 rescue the poor when they cry out...help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them...pity the weak & the needy, & rescue them...redeem them from oppression & violence, for their lives are precious to God.*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty Creator of heaven & earth.* Everything we see in this world points back to an original design, direction & purpose. But even more, God who created the vastness of space & the intricacies of our world also created you...a creative masterpiece uniquely crafted by his own hand, according to his perfect design w/ a clear purpose to bring delight, joy beauty & love to this world. God creates, sustains & satisfies all he has made & enables us to join Him in nurturing his creation toward thriving fullness.

**Take it home**...This week...where will you add beauty, joy life & love to this world & point to God as you do? Let's pray...God our Father, continue to provide your grace & love for our lives. Draw us to trust you more and fear this world less. Deepen our reliance on you and our confidence in your will that in all things we show those around us your fatherly goodness, awesome glory & eternal compassion. We pray in Jesus' name...Amen