May the light of Christ shine upon you today.

*Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O Lord!*

 Psalm 4:6

We are considering the idea of light in the sermon today, and as God’s word tells us, the light is good.

God is so good, He is so glorious, that His countenance, His very being gives off light. Just for Him to look upon us is to show us good.

This Psalm considers that even in times of trouble, God is with us and watching over us. When we belong to Him, nothing can take us from Him. Sometimes it seems as if there is nothing good and we ask “*Who will show us any good*?”

Well, the answer is God. When we are saved in Christ, we will one day stand before Him. Bathed in His light, we will see goodness; absolutely pure and holy goodness.

In Christ’s love

John

 11-14-21

Genesis 1:1-5

Our all-powerful and eternal God chose to create the universe and give life as He saw fit. He also chose to give a special revelation of Himself to all who would accept it; that revelation is the Bible. The book of Genesis lets us know that there was a beginning of creation and of time; but the Bible also tells us that God has always existed, has life in Himself, and He is separate from His creation. This is important: too often creation is worshiped or it is imagined that God exists in His creation. God is omnipresent, but that is different from saying that He exists in the rocks and trees and sky.

God started things by creating space and the earth. His main focus is on the earth; this is where He will create beings who are made in His own image. He also knew that those beings would mess up His good creation and He already had a plan to fix it. The Bible is true and accurate, but it doesn’t tell us all the details we might like to know; that’s not its purpose. Keep in mind the purpose of the Bible is to reveal God’s plan of redemption. And part of that redemption is the restoration of His good creation.

So, as God revealed to Moses what to write in the Pentateuch, He started right in the beginning of time so that we would know that He is creator God and He is able to redeem what He has made. And most importantly, that He would redeem fallen mankind. Once more, to consider these things is mind-boggling. But we are dealing with God; who is far beyond us in all things.

We considered in previous sermons, that God started by creating the vastness of space and formless, empty earth, covered entirely with water and surrounded by darkness. Verse 2 also lets us know that the Holy Spirit was there and that He was active. Some translations say He was moving, but another good word there is “hovering”. This same word shows up in Deuteronomy 32:11.

*Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
That hovers over its young,
He spread His wings and caught them,
He carried them on His pinions.*

This is part of a song of Moses in which he sings of the Lord watching over and protecting His people. The picture is of an eagle caring for its young. In the same way here in Genesis, the Holy Spirit is waiting over this newly created earth. He will eventually give life to those created in God’s image and He will desire to guide and protect them.

The beginning of verse 3 is very important: *Then God said.* Yes, God spoke, and what He spoke came to pass. We see this repeated throughout the creation account. This is what God can do; this is His majesty. He commands and it happens; He speaks and something material comes into being out of nothing.

It is because of this kind of power that we know God is able to redeem. This is what tells us that our bodies being remade in the resurrection is true. If God can create out of nothing, it will be easy for Him to recreate our bodies no matter what shape they are in or what has happened to them. He will be able to call our atoms together even if they are spread throughout the world. Here in the beginning of Genesis is grounds for our faith in being resurrected through Jesus Christ.

Another thing we don’t want to miss is the word “*said*”. In other words, God spoke, He used words. These are words that came from God. And who is Jesus? The Word of God. God reveled Himself in His word in the Bible. But He revealed Himself more completely in His incarnate Word; His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. From Hebrews 1:3, “*And [Jesus] is the radiance of [God’s] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power*.”

So here in the first three verses of the Bible we have the Trinity: God, the Father creator; the Holy Spirit; and Jesus, the Word of God. We mentioned previously that the Hebrew word translated “*God*” in verse 1 is Elohim, and Elohim is plural. These revelations of the Trinity would have remained a mystery until the coming of the New Testament. By the light of the New Testament, we can see what was surrounded by darkness in the Old.

The first recorded words of God are “*Let there be light*.” Once God said this, light came into being. While darkness itself isn’t bad, God wanted His life-bearing creation to be able to see. He had lots of beautiful things He was going to make and He wanted us to be able to enjoy them. This is how He designed us to move around; we have light and are able to see where we are going.

Something really interesting here is that God didn’t make the sun until day four. So where did the light emanate from? That’s the neat thing, it simply existed because God told it to. This idea shows up again in Revelation 22:5, “*And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever*.” This is how it will be for us once God creates the new heavens and earth. I don’t know if the sun will be there or not, but we won’t need it.

*God saw that the light was good*. Now, God certainly knew that the light was going to be good long before He created it. But the Bible is a revelation of God. This is letting *us* know that the light God created is good. Our God is a good God; moreover, He is not only good along the lines of what we might consider good, but He is holy. He is perfectly good and there is no evil associated with Him at all. Because of the absolute goodness of His character, nothing He creates is evil.

Obviously, some of what He created turned toward evil; but that is not God’s fault. He has given us choice; human-beings are created in His image, not like inanimate objects. But this gives God opportunity to demonstrate His goodness and glory. He made a way, at great personal cost, to redeem us.

Next God made a separation: *He separated the light from the darkness*. I can’t imagine what things looked like before God separated the light from the dark, but He did cause them to exist separately. Each came in its turn and we see God beginning to bring order to chaos.

God named the time of light and the time of darkness; He named them day and night. God here established a pattern that would last for the rest of the existence of His creation. We can count on this pattern; we need never be concerned that the sun might go out or the earth will stop turning. We know from the book of Revelation that powerful and terrifying phenomena will take place at the end of the age. But when it is over, the pattern will continue throughout the millennial reign of Christ. God promised Noah, “*While the earth remains … day and night shall not cease*.”

Thus, we have the first day of creation: God made the earth and outer space, He called forth light, and established the pattern of day followed by night. These things were good. His creation in its vastness shows His majesty. He made the earth with the thought of coming life already in mind. He made physical light and that light is necessary for life. But this is only the beginning of the story of light and dark. Here the foundation has been laid for the coming battle between good and evil. Light and dark become metaphors; but they are metaphors to the point of spiritual reality.

Light represents goodness, even holiness; while darkness becomes the personification of evil. Light brings mercy and forgiveness; dark comes about in judgement. There is a lot in the first day of creation that relates to what we have in the New Testament and we don’t have to worry about reading too much into the first day account. As Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:6, “*For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*” Paul directly ties together the creation account with the coming of Jesus Christ.

In 1 John 1:5, the apostle tells us something they learned from Jesus: “*God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all*.” Light is one of the attributes of God, just like love. This light is goodness; it is holiness. The same quality is in the Son of God according to John 8:12: *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life*.” Spiritual light and darkness are reality and we must deal with them through Jesus.

When God created the earth, it was surrounded with darkness. God brought about the light. When Adam sinned, the earth was once again plunged into darkness. This is a spiritual darkness; satan became the prince of this world. Along with the spiritual darkness comes the physical effects of evil: poverty, war, discontent, suffering. And a separation from the holy God who made us and from whom comes all we need for life.

The earth began covered in water and in a state of chaos; it is now covered in evil and, again, in a state of chaos. As God controlled the chaos of the primeval earth, He continues to control the chaos of evil. This will be seen more when we look at God setting limits on the water on the third day.

The Holy Spirit hovered over the formless earth; determined to protect it and bring about life. And now, He does the same. Ever since the fall of man, the Holy Spirit has worked to bring people back to their Creator. As a member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is omnipresent. He fills the earth. Also, as a member of the Godhead, He loves us. He loves the people created by the Father and into whom He was breathed for life.

The Holy Spirit is a restraining presence; He restrains evil from completely taking over and destroying all of God’s creation. And the Holy Spirit is constantly working to bring spiritual life back to human-beings. It is the Holy Spirit who shines the light of Jesus Christ into the darkened hearts of people. It is He who gives these people the faith needed to accept Christ as Saviour so that they might be taken out of the darkness. He convicts the world of sin, that we might recognize our need for salvation. He makes it possible for us to say “Yes” to Jesus and live forever in the light.

As the eagle hovers over its nest, desiring to care for and protect its young, the Holy Spirit continues to hover over this earth desiring to bring us to Jesus. God does not will that any should perish as we are told in 2 Peter 3:9, “*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*.”

God did not want His new creation to exist in darkness, so He said, “*Let there be light*.” In the same way, once the darkness of evil had descended upon the earth, He did not want His creation to continue in darkness. Once again, in effect, He said, “Let there be Light.” He sent His only begotten Son into the world as a light shining in the darkness. We are shown a fulfillment of prophecy in Matthew 4:16. “*The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, And those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.*” As Jesus said in John 12:46, “*I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness*.”

In creation, God also separated light from darkness. God separates things according to His will and one thing He defiantly keeps separated is good from evil. Although the two comingle now, this is not a natural God-made condition; and one day He will make the separation complete. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells of the separation of the sheep from the goats. The sheep are the followers of Christ, the goats have rejected Him. In verse 46, Jesus makes it clear that those who reject Him will be sent to eternal punishment, while those who follow Him will be blessed with eternal life.

The Bible is clear about separate judgements. Those in the Light will be judged according to their deeds in order to receive reward. The ones who chose the darkness will receive the judgement of perdition, also according to their deeds.

God created physical light so that we could see. He provided Jesus as the Light of the world so that our spiritual eyes might be opened and we could see. Again, our amazing God had this all planned out from the beginning.

Prayer

Creator God, how wonderful is Your creation of light. All that You have made is wonderous and beautiful; it shows Your glory and power. With light we are able to see what You have made and enjoy it. From the tiniest flower to the magnificent galaxies of space, Your creation sings of Your glory and gives us pause to worship our Creator.

But You have also given us the wonderful Light which is Jesus Christ, our one and only Saviour. In the presence of His light, we are able to see how desperately we need Him. We are rebellious and our hearts constantly seek evil; but the light of Christ reveals our desperate situation so that we can turn to Him as our only source of righteousness.

May Your Holy Spirit, who has graciously condescended to dwell within us, cause us to reflect that brilliant light of Christ into this darkened world, that others would see and come into Your Kingdom. May our lives be useful to You in bringing You glory by winning souls for Christ.

We thank You and praise You in Jesus’ name

Amen