



September 06 **Created, Known, and Called**

This Sunday, we gathered to celebrate Creation of Christ Sunday, reflecting on passages of Scripture that together proclaim one beautiful truth: the God who created the world has never stopped creating, sustaining, and renewing life through Jesus Christ. Our journey began in Genesis, where we encounter the intimate story of God's creation of humanity. Unlike the rest of creation, which comes into being simply by God's spoken word, humanity is formed with remarkable tenderness. God shapes the human from the dust of the earth and breathes into them the ruach, the breath of life. This powerful image reminds us that our identity is not rooted in our accomplishments, possessions, or social status. Our deepest identity is that we are God's beloved creation. Every breath we take is a gift, and every person we encounter bears the dignity of being lovingly created by God.

In Acts 17, the Apostle Paul speaks to the people of Athens about the God they have been searching for without fully knowing. Paul reminds them, and us, that God is not distant or removed from creation. Instead, he proclaims, "In him we live and move and have our being." God's presence surrounds us every day, sustaining our lives in ways we often overlook. Whether in moments of joy or seasons of struggle, God remains faithfully near, continually offering grace, strength, and hope.

The Gospel of John then takes us back even further, to before creation itself. John introduces Jesus as the eternal Logos, the Word who was with God and was God from the very beginning. Through Christ, all things were made, and in Him is the fullness of life. John also tells us that Christ is the Light that shines in the darkness, and that no darkness can overcome it. This is the heart of the Gospel: The Creator did not remain distant from creation but entered it in the person of Jesus Christ to bring healing, forgiveness, and new life.

These readings invite us to see creation as more than an event that happened long ago. Creation is an ongoing expression of God's love. Every sunrise, every child, every act of forgiveness, every restored relationship, and every life transformed by God's grace bears witness to the Creator who continues to make all things new.

Because we have been created and redeemed by Christ, we are also called to live as faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is about much more than financial giving. It is reflected in how we care for God's creation, how we treat our neighbors, how we welcome strangers, how we seek justice, and how we use our gifts to serve others. Every act of kindness, compassion, generosity, and mercy becomes a living testimony to the God who first loved us. As we begin a new week, may we remember these enduring promises: You were lovingly created by God. You are continually sustained by God's presence. You are deeply known and eternally loved through Jesus Christ. You are called to reflect Christ's light in the world through your words, actions, and love for others.

May we go forth with grateful hearts, caring for God's creation and one another, confident that the same Creator who formed us, the same Savior who redeemed us, and the same Spirit who breathes life into us each day will continue to guide us in faith, hope, and love. Amen!

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