

St Columba's Corby
SUNDAY WORSHIP
20th February 2022

Pre Service Song 935 My Jesus, my Saviour

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the
Promise I have in You.*

Welcome, Preparation and Notices

Welcome to our service for Sunday 20th February 2022 – it's the second Sunday before Lent, time to practise your pancake skills. I hope you were able to enjoy a safe half-term week. As this services is prepared in advance and may be effect by Storm Eunice and other events, please refer to the email that came with this document for the latest notices.

I'm sure like me you're looking forward to seeing the back of these strong winds and the coming Spring. When you're able to get out and about look for the Snowdrops, Catkins and other signs that remind us of this beautiful world that God created.

Later in our service we look forward to Linda speaking to us on our reading in Genesis Chapter 2, God continues creating our World and this time it's plants and people; the first garden and the first gardener.

Opening Hymn 2413 Lift up His name (Holy is our God)

Lift up his name within the sanctuary,
Lift up His name among the people
Who are gathered here to sing His praise,
Who are gathered here to sing His praise.

*Holy is our God.
Holy is Your name;
Mighty are Your works and deeds
And wondrous are Your ways.
All that You have made
Shall return and give You glory, Lord.*

The earth, the sky, the sea and all within them,
This universe, beyond the sight of mortal man,
All subject to His reign;
All creation subject to His reign.

*Holy is our God.
Holy is Your name;
Mighty are Your works and deeds
And wondrous are Your ways.
All that You have made
Shall return and give You glory,*

The great I Am, no end and no beginning,
You were and are and evermore You shall be.
All my days are in Your hands;
All my days are in Your hands.

chorus

Prayer of acclamation for the God of Creation

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all, to you be glory and praise for ever. You founded the earth in the beginning and the heavens are the work of your hands. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, and in these last days you have spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, your Spirit ever renew our lives and your praises ever be on our lips. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen

Prayer for Energise classes

Father we pray for our children, young people and their leaders as they leave for their classes today. We pray that they would all see something new of your glory and that you would bless each one of them today. In Jesus name,
Amen.

Hymn 3 Ah Lord God

Ah Lord God, Thou hast made the heavens
And the earth by Thy great power.
Ah Lord God, Thou hast made the heavens
And the earth by Thine outstretched arm.

Nothing is too difficult for Thee,
Nothing is too difficult for Thee.
O great and mighty God,
Great in counsel and mighty in deed,
Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing,
Nothing is too difficult for Thee.

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with everyone...

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been.
Help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
That we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
Who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for 2nd Sunday before Lent

**Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever. Amen**

Reading

Genesis 2 v4b-9, 15-25

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'

The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said,

'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman", for she was taken out of man.'

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon – Linda Coleman

This week's sermon is about creation in Genesis the first book of the bible. There is so much to learn from it that I will barely touch on it in the time we have but here goes.

The commentaries on the creation story say not to take it literally but to think of it as a story or parable that explains unexplainable wonders. Jesus Himself used parables all the time in His teachings when He was on earth to give guidance and explanations to people on how to live. An earthly story with a heavenly meaning. This story in Genesis is an ancient parable.

The story of Cinderella is likened to this passage as it is about a problem which has to be solved and of the various moves to solve it. The problem is how the heroine who has fallen into dire straits may be restored to happiness and prosperity.

The first move is the girl's attempt to fix it herself by trying to please her wicked stepmother and step sisters. The second move is the invitation to the ball given by the King's son.

The third move brings in the fairy godmother whose magical powers get Cinderella to the ball. But this move has a condition attached 'Be back by midnight' which Cinderella does not manage to keep and she loses her slipper.

The fourth and eventual successful move is the prince's search for the owner of the slipper. Then Cinderella marries her Prince and finally gets the happiness she has searched for.

The story of the Garden of Eden is of course rather more complicated than that of Cinderella and is actually two separate stories that run together. One (chapter 2) in which there is a need to be met and Two (chapter 3) in which there is a problem to be solved. But in each of these two parts a number of moves can be seen which lead to the meeting of the need and the solving of the problem. And the link between the two is the condition which God (almost like the fairy Godmother) lays down. (Cinderella must be home by midnight. Adam and Eve must not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil)

It is the failure of the hero and heroine to keep this condition, laid down in chapter 2 which becomes the problem to be solved in chapter 3. We only have time to briefly look at parts of chapter 2 today but here is an outline of the plot of the story to explain creation.

Act one or Paradise

The Need – God creates man as a living being. The implication of this is that man cannot exist on his own. God breathes life into him.

Move one The man needs somewhere to live and work, so God creates for him the garden with it's trees of immortality and knowledge.

The Condition. The man is forbidden to eat from the tree of knowledge.

Move two The man needs a helpmeet so God creates the animals to be subject to him and serve him.

Move three The animals do not meet his need, so God creates woman.

The need met. The man and woman live together in the garden in harmony and innocence.

UNTIL

The man is confronted with a choice, ' you are free to eat from any tree in the garden but you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'.

So man can either work for God and find happiness and freedom in serving Him, or he can go his own way thinking he knows all there is to know, and live with the consequences.

This is the most basic choice that any of us is ever called upon to make, the choice between God and ourselves, between real freedom and the illusion of it, between Paradise and Hell, between life and death. It is our choice and our choice alone. God cannot interfere in it otherwise it is not a free will choice. But how anxious He is that we make the right choice , how devastated when we make the wrong one.

Notice the prohibition does not mention the other tree in the garden, the tree of life. We are not told that this tree was forbidden to the man. So how sad it is that this shows exactly what our human nature is like. All the time the man and woman were in the garden they had the chance of eating from the tree of life. The chance of immortality, but their minds were set only on what they had been told they could not have. So near and yet so far.

Just like every child we know. Just like each of us. If we're told we can't have it we want it more.

The garden of eden was life as it was meant to be –perfect. Eden was a place where all of mankind's needs were met. There was unlimited water, the man and woman had one another for companionship, friendship and helpmates to one another. There was no pain there, or going through childbirth, there was no hard toil or work, there was no shame or guilt, no blame, no victimization or bullying, and no need to hide and cover up in fear. There was no death. It was Paradise.

Eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil led to death. The tree of life would lead to life. These two trees stood for obedience and disobedience. The man and woman chose disobedience. And so mostly do we.

Jesus says 'I have come that they might have life . Life in all it's fullness. We all want that life Jesus speaks of but we always want to solve our own problems and find it so hard to trust God and believe in Him. It's like we're programmed that way. To be self sufficient, wanting to be in control, fix it ourselves.

If only we could more often Simply walk with God in the garden. Having the faith of a small child. Enjoying life, living free from grudges and burdens because God will look after us and provide everything we need.

The tree of life and the life in all it's fullness our Lord Jesus promises is choosing to live in innocence. Be forgiving, go the second mile with people, don't dump them, because God doesn't dump you.

Pray to God and trust Him to take care of all your situations.

I may be preaching this sermon after studying up the bible and explanations for a few weeks on this creation and tree's and choices thing, but that doesn't mean to say I'm living it.

I'm stressed to the max because we have to move out of our home in 6 weeks and don't know where we will be living.

I pray and get peace and then it goes away again as I try to sort it all out myself. I want to have the knowledge of good and evil of where I'm going and I want to control it all. I don't want to trust God or anyone else for that matter. It's all about me me me and what I want want want.

God has NEVER let me down in the past ever but I still don't want to trust Him with this now, just in case He messes it up for me.

I'm choosing my own knowledge instead of life and trust and peace and it's making me sad and ill and totally stressed out.

I'll keep you posted as to what happens next.

Dear God help us all to choose and accept life in all it's fullness from Jesus our Lord and Redeemer. Choose life and not death.
Amen

Hymn 710 Father God, fill this place

Father God, fill this place
With Your love, with Your grace.
As we call on Your name,
Visit us in power again.

Spirit come with Your peace;
Heal our wounds, bring release.
Lord we long for Your touch,
Fill our hearts with Your love

*Lord, we worship You.
Lord, we worship You.*

Spirit come with Your peace;
Heal our wounds, bring release.
Lord we long for Your touch,
Fill our hearts with Your love

*Lord, we worship You.
Lord, we worship You.*

Creed – What we believe

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Comes from Philippians 2:6-11

Hymn 1498 Over all the earth

Over all the Earth,
You reign on high,
Every mountain stream,
Every sunset sky.
But my one request,
Lord, my only aim
Is that You'd reign in me again.

*Lord, reign in me,
Reign in Your power;
Over all my dreams,
In my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
So won't You reign in me again?*

Over every thought,
Over every word,
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me
Than any earthly thing,
So won't You reign in me again?

(chorus)

Intercessions by David Bavin

Heavenly Father we pray for the ongoing situation in Ukraine and the threat or otherwise of a Russian invasion. Lord we may not understand all the background and political movements behind it but we do understand the potential consequences. Lord we pray for a peaceful resolution. We pray for peace. We pray for a decrease of tension both internationally and to the Ukrainians themselves.

Heavenly Father the author of peace, we ask for peace Lord.

Lord we lift before you all those affected by storms Eunice and Dudley. We lift before you the family and friends of the three people killed draw close to them Lord and may they find comfort strength as the face an unforeseen future. We pray for those who have suffered loss or damage to property. May they be able to rebuild Lord. We pray for those who are still without power that they may soon be restored. We lift before you all those who work in industries such as utilities, road and rail as they strive to restore services, keep them safe Lord.

Lord who calmed the storm bring the victims of Dudley and Eunice your calm and peace.

Lord who healed the sick, we ask you Lord to place your healing hands upon those we know in need of healing at this time. In a moment of silence, we name in our hearts those we know and love in need of your healing at this time.

Lord we also pray for all those who work in the healing sector, from the jobs that we all know about like Surgeons, Doctors Nurses to those who work is as vital but remains unknown. Lord we know of the tremendous pressures that these people are under at this time. Be with them Lord. And grant them wisdom while at work and rest relaxation when away from work.

We pray for those who are mourning. Lord be with them and bring them comfort and strength in their time of need. Lord we pray for those who work with the dying and the dead, grant them Lord the sensitivities and qualities they need.

We pray for ourselves Lord. Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves. We offer to you this morning Lord, the week ahead. Be with us in all that we do, that wherever we are and whatever we are doing, may we bring glory to your Holy name.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Final Hymn 425 O Lord our God (How great Thou Art)

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die - I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Final Prayer and The Grace

Lord we thank you for your gift of creation, for this beautiful world, the rich diversity of plants and animal life, the wide range of seasons and weather and for our human lives but most of all for Your Son Jesus Christ. We pray that all the beauty of your creation that we see around us everyday reminds us just how much you love each and everyone of us. **Amen**

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, now and forevermore, Amen**

May God bless each one of us this week and forever, **Amen**