

October 30-November 5, 2016

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Sunday, October 30, 2016 - Created in God's Image

Text: Genesis 1:27-31 (NRSV)

*²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

God created us in God's likeness. In the image of love and goodness. In a world of chaos and control we seem to forget this truth. We often think that we need to prove our self-worth, but in reality all we need to do is "return to God" and the truth will be revealed.

Let us pray:

Creator God, thank you for creating us in your image and giving us life. Help us to remember that all life in its fullness comes from you, and all that we need comes from you. Help us to let go of guilt and shame that has been reflected upon us and return to the love and goodness that you have created us in. Amen



Monday, October 31, 2016 – God has Called Us by Name

Text: Isaiah 43:1-4 (NRSV)

*43 But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,*

*he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.*

God created us in God's image and calls us each by name. Each of us are precious in God's sight. God loves each and every one of us. We are all precious in God's eyes. God continues to call us home to God. God calls us into relationship and into oneness.

Let us pray:

Loving God, you call each of us by name, even when others have forgotten us, you remember. Remind us daily how precious we are, especially in a world where this is easily forgotten. Help us to remember that you have called us by name and we are precious in your sight. Amen



Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – God, You have Searched Me and Know Me

Text: Psalm 139:1-13 (NRSV)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.*

⁷ *Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?*

⁸ *If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*

⁹ *If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,*

¹⁰ *even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"*

¹² *even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

¹³ *For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

God knew us even before we were born. God formed us and made us. God knows every intricate part of us and loves us fully. In a world that distracts us away from God's love and tries to give us a false identity, God still knows the true us! God does not forget who God has formed and continues to weave us in God's everlasting love.

Let us pray:

Almighty Weaver, you have knit us in our mother's womb. Continue to weave us into your great tapestry so we will always remember that we are one with you. Amen



Wednesday, November 2, 2016 – Do Not Worry

Text: Matthew 6:25-33 (NRSV)

²⁵ *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the*

field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Why do we worry? Worry only causes anxiety. For some reason humankind thinks that if we could only “control” a situation, life would be less anxious. But actually, it is in the letting go and releasing that we are given new life. Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.

Let us pray:

Provider God, you provide for all our needs. You have prepared for us a kingdom, if only we would stop worrying and trust you, we would see that we have all that we need. Guide our decision making so we can learn to be less anxious and more trusting in your love. Amen



Thursday, November 3, 2016 – I Will Never Leave You

Text: Hebrews 13:5 (NRSV)

⁵ *Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”*

In a world of dispensable items, throw away gadgets, broken marriages and relationships, God reminds us that God will never leave us or forsake us. God will be with us in all of our trials, pains, disappointments and betrayals. We will always be indispensable to God. God will not abandon nor reject us.

Let us pray:

God of all, thank you for walking this journey with us and when we have been unable to walk, you have carried us. Remind us daily that you are with us. Continue to remind us that you have sent Jesus Christ as a sign of your unending love for us. That in Christ we will never be alone. Amen



Friday, November 4, 2016 – I Will Continue My Faithfulness

Text: Jeremiah 31:3 (NRSV)

³ *the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.*

God's love is an agape love, a love that is true and will last forever. God's love is different than the love we receive from humankind. God's love is unconditional. God does not set limits on his love.

Let us pray:

Trusting and loving God, you love faithfully and without conditions. Open our hearts so that we may love others as you have loved us. Help us to be signs of your faithfulness and love in the world. Amen



Saturday, November 5, 2016 – Teach Us to Love

Text: 1 John 4:19 (NRSV)

¹⁹ *We love because he first loved us.*

God loves us with an everlasting love. God created us in God's image so we too could love with an everlasting love. With God, all things are possible. God continues to call us into this love. Without God, there would be no love. God shows us by God's example. God so loved the world that God gave us God's only Son so that we could have life.

Let us pray:

Loving God, thank you for your everlasting love. Thank you for showing us by your example how we too should love. May we live and love as you have shown us. Amen



