

Let us pray,

Lord, give us the strength and the wisdom to bring order from chaos, and live into your legacy of creation.

Amen.

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Many may not know that there are two creation stories in the book of Genesis.

They are actually right next to each other, and its important to note that they do not both say the same exact thing.

But the one thing that they do have in common is that we don't see God creating something from nothing.

Shocking, I know!

Instead, we see God creating order from chaos.

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That is a very different theological point, creating order out of chaos, vs something out of nothing.

There is an underlying assumption here, that existence of matter could have existed simultaneously with the great mover, the great order creator, or as we call this being, God.

But here we have a dilemma, because most of Christian history made the assumption, that God created something from nothing.

But the truth is, this is an implied narrative and is not actually stated in the Bible verbatim.

It isn't until Jesus, that we started seriously considering that God created everything without something already existing.

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So, Did God create something out of nothing, or did God create something out of that which already existed.

It is much different to say that God created something from Chaos, to say that God created something from nothing.

The first implies that God made meaning out of that which already existed, or changed it, shaped it towards God's desired outcome.

Versus the second, which implies that God created both the material and the meaning, starting completely fresh.

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Or are we kind of missing the point by arguing this?

It is very possible that existence itself, including the material, and the heavenly material, existed together from the beginning of time with God.

I don't mean to get to meta physical on you all, but the fact of the matter is, that existence itself, in the most basic sense of material and the cosmic soup that is space and all that is, could have never had a beginning.

Just like God did not have a beginning.

And to be honest with you, whether God created material out of nothing, or not, or was in existence with the material already, it really doesn't matter.

What matters is what God decided to do with cosmic soup.

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And what God decided to do, was create order out of chaos, create meaning out of meaninglessness, create something out of that which was nothing.

God provided the foundations for relationship, companionship and a shared desire to create meaning out of chaos.

God has called us to be co-creators with God.

To be fruitful and multiply, to add to the cosmic diversity of creation.

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This passage is used a lot to talk about fertility and being fruitful and multiplying.

But this isn't a sermon on fertility.

This isn't something saying that we need to have children.

As someone myself, who is struggling with the reality that I may never have kids of my own, this is not about having children.

Although, it is good and great and amazing if we can have kids and help them grow and be co-creators themselves.

But the story of creation is not limited to childbearing, is my point.

It is a proclamation of our shared work with the divine to bring order out of chaos.

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And what does order look like in the biblical sense?

Is order about control?

Is it about creating spreadsheets?

Is it about creating civic systems that keep everyone in line and make life sterile and smooth?

No...

Creating order out of chaos, is about creating environments that provide meaning and purpose for those who inhabit those environments.

God has given us something that so many of us take for granted.

We like to think that if we had no challenge, that if everything was perfect, that if all of our needs were met, that if there was no struggle, no hurdles to overcome, that we would be happy.

But the reality is, things being “perfect”, doesn’t make us happy, purpose and meaning does.

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And why is that?

Its because the one who created us, designed creation in a way that its focus is on meaning and purpose, not on perfection or how much stuff we have.

God didn’t create a bunch of rocks and gases out of nothing.

What God did, was create meaning and purpose in a cosmos that had no meaning and purpose.

And that is the real life giver.

As a society, we have whole heartily lost our way.

We have put our priority not on meaning and purpose and co-creation.

But on stuff, productivity and the pursuit of perfection.

Much of our lives are built upon escaping all types of hardship and discomfort.

But the reality is, Billionaires and mega wealthy people who have all of the resources available to them, are not necessarily happier.

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Please hear me, I am not saying that the other extreme of wealth aka, extreme poverty will make us happy either.

It wont, poverty is not a good thing, and most people who find themselves in extreme poverty or struggle financially or in other ways that they are not able to get their needs met, are not necessarily happy either.

I don't want to romanticize poverty.

But what I am trying to say, is that God has provided us with a planet that can provide for our most basic needs.

And once those are met, God has given us something greater than the necessities of life.

God has given us a reason to exist.

God has provided us with purpose and meaning, and we were created for it.

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God is calling us to look at life through the lens of meaning and purpose.

To see that all that is and will be has a purpose, and that we are called to find meaning in it.

This is not to say that God gives us struggles, or that we suffer because God wants us to suffer, or anything like that.

But what God does want us to do, is to see meaning and purpose through our suffering, through our joys, through even the mundane.

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Here is the thing.

We have been conditioned to believe that we are consumers of goods and services.

That our only chance at happiness is to consume more and more and more.

But what God is trying to tell us, is that our only true chance at happiness is when we start to see our place in being co-creators with God.

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Are we creating the relationships with others that build up meaning and purpose.

Are we creating the space for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Are we creating the space for grieving, for sharing, for loving.

Are we creating new and exciting ways of living and being.

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I am also careful to note that this isn't about productivity either.

Its not about doing or making more, more, more, more.

Its about how we live out our life in its most wholistic sense.

Are we living a life that helps to promote creation, promote relationships, promote new ways of living and loving.

Or are we living a life that helps promote death, consumerism, and self centeredness.

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The creation story is one of the most beautiful stories in the bible in my opinion.

Not because of how great God is for creating everything.

But because God invites us into God's desire to create.

Remember that you are all blessed.

That God called you good.

That we are a good and blessed creation.

That you have within you, the capacity to create meaning and purpose out of Chaos.

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Life stops being worth living when we believe that life is meaningless.

That isn't a coincidence, that is a design.

True happiness comes when we enter into the work of meaning and purpose through the lens of the one who gave us meaning and purpose.

May we never forget that we are co-creators, that through love, self sacrifice, relationship, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and reconciliation, we can find happiness and a group of people to share that happiness with.

We are the beloved community, blessed by our God, created for love, and to share that love.

To bring order out of chaos.

May you know that you are blessed, and may your life be a blessing to others.

Amen.