

Holy Trinity Sunday
Sermon Text: Psalm 8
Related text: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Date preached: May 30, 2010

“I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.”

This first article of the Apostle’s creed is a statement of faith. Here we are rising above scientific attempts to prove how the world came into being. This statement takes us much further than the arguments over how the world began.

The first article of this creed is about our relationship with God. Here as in the beginning of the Lord’s Prayer, we are taught to call our God Father.

It is a term by which our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to relate to God. He is our Heavenly Father, without all the sinfulness that affects our earthly fathers. Our heavenly Father created heaven and earth, you and me and all that we need to live.

We are a cherished part of God’s creation, and as stated in Psalm 8, “crowned with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet...” This includes plants and animals, birds and fish, indeed, all that we need for life.

Each and every person is a cherished creation from God. We all know that in terms of our mind. Knowing that from the heart is just as important, if not more so.

The couple who struggles to have children knows that preciousness in a very different way. They may endure the struggle of fertility testing and related procedures just to have the chance to raise just one of God's precious creations.

The wife, who receives that heart aching visit from a military chaplain, knows the preciousness of life and how fragile life can be. Prayers for her husbands' safe return become prayers of sorrow and grief knowing that her married life to this man is over far too soon. This weekend is a reminder not only of those who have made the sacrifice of their lives, but also reminds us to be caring comforting and consoling to those they have left behind.

Today we celebrate the baptism of Brooklynn Renae Kobistek. We look forward with joy to the baptism of each child. And it is easy to see such young children as precious. They haven't yet talked back to their parents. They haven't caused the emotional hurts that we experience from older children or adults.

Sin clouds us from seeing each person as God sees us. The sin I'm speaking of is our own sin of prejudice.

In the past several weeks, through the phone surveys volunteers from our church conducted and from those who have asked me directly, the issue of the role of homosexual persons as ordained ministers is still a concern among us. During the Sunday school hour starting next week, we will be looking at a number of issues that are intertwined and part of the debate, particularly from Biblical perspectives.

Remember as we heard from the Psalm, all human beings regardless of sexual orientation, skin color or ethnic background, are part of God's beautiful creation. In God there is life for all people. And just as we are charged by God to be caretakers of His good creation, such responsibility includes caring for each other, those most similar to us and those most different from us.

To care for people as a precious part of God's creation is not to accept everything that individual does. Caring for our neighbors is not equal to condoning what they do, just as we would not want our neighbors to condone our sinful behavior.

Likewise we do not accept teaching that is contrary to God's Word regardless of who teaches it.

Being care takers of one another which is exactly what it means to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that he has suffered, died and rose again for all people. Some will not believe. Yet for those who do believe there is forgiveness and the promise of eternal life where we are finally fully delivered from the forces of evil around us.

Such care for one another is a reflection of our faith in God, who created us in His image. Such care is possible because of the promise of salvation we have in Christ. Caring for one another can be challenging, but is possible through the help of the Holy Spirit, who cares for us that we may be kept in the saving faith of the good news of Christ. AMEN.