

## **Cooma Anglican 2 March 2025 - 1st Order APBA**

### **Welcome**

#### **Hymn TIS 156 -Morning has Broken**

**Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing, fresh from the world**

**Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day**

### **Greeting**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Sentence of the Day**

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Creator God, At the beginning of time, your hand shaped the world and everything in it. As we give thanks for the fruits of the earth, enrich our lives with the fruits of

your love through the resurrected Jesus Christ, the resurrected Lord of life, who lives and reigns over our world in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **Genesis 1:1-5, 27-2:3**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning —the first day.

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. ” <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food. ” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning —the sixth day. <sup>2.1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalms 96**

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> **Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns. " The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

<sup>12</sup> **Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

<sup>13</sup> **Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

### **Colossians 1:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **John 1:1-5**

#### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

This is the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Sermon Genesis 1 - In The Beginning**

#### **Question Time**

#### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead,**

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God forever.**

### Prayers

Let us pray for the world and the church.

Response: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,  
**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us.

Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

### **Confession**

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.**

**We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 2:1-2

**Hymn TIS 516** Here, gracious Lord, we  
Here, gracious Lord, we see you face to face;  
here would we touch and handle things unseen,  
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
and for sustaining strength upon you lean.

Here would we feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;  
here would we lay aside each earthly load,  
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

We need no help but yours, nor do we need  
another arm save yours to lean upon;  
it is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;  
our strength is in your might, your might alone.

Ours is the sin, but yours the righteousness;

ours is the guilt, but yours the cleansing blood;  
here are our robe, our refuge and our peace  
your blood, your righteousness, O Lord our God.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

### **The Thanksgiving**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator and Eternal God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

### **Prayer of Approach**

**We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'  
Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Amen.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

### **After Communion**

Almighty and everliving God, we heartily thank you that you graciously feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and thus assure us of your favour and goodness towards us and that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people, and are also heirs, through hope, of your eternal kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of your dear Son. And we humbly beseech you, heavenly Father, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, world without end.

### **Hymn TIS 216 Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**Rejoice, the Lord is King; your Lord and King adore;  
let all give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;**

#### **Refrain**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above: [Refrain]**

**His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given: [Refrain]**

**He sits at God's right hand, till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet: [Refrain]**

**Rejoice in glorious hope; Jesus the judge shall come,  
and take his servants up to their eternal home:  
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
the trump of God shall sound, Rejoice!**

### **Notices**

### Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



## **Sermon - Genesis 1:1-2:3**

Today we start a new sermon series on Genesis, which will take us up to Easter. Note the whole book is 50 chapters long, and we'll only get up to chapter 6. We won't even go into every detail on the chapters I look at. It would be good if you go read the passage before Sunday so you can ask questions after the sermon.

### **I'll Focus not on creation of stuff, but creation of time**

Chapter 1 starts with the words: "In the beginning, God" This was before the universe existed - obviously, since God hasn't created it. God pre-existed space and time.

Pre-existence is an important characteristic of the divine, of God. God is separate from time, and since he created it, He is separate from the universe. Ever since Einstein we have known that time and space are intertwined - you can't have one without the other, and God must have created time when he created space.

As we read through Genesis, we see God creating space and matter. We see him create the heavens and the earth, light and darkness, water, sky, land, seas, vegetation, the sun and moon and stars, sea creatures, birds, land creatures, and humankind. This creation of stuff is pretty clear. Numerous sermons, commentaries and other books talk about this, but this morning I want to take a different tack, and focus on God creating time. I know that most of us don't even think about God creating time. We think time is just the background in which God created, but it is worthwhile working through the implications of God creating time, which he undoubtedly did. It is also interesting how many of the things God creates in Genesis 1 are related to time, as we shall see.

### **The Beginning of Creation**

When God created the heavens and earth, they started off formless and empty. As an engineer, with more than a passing interest in Physics, this sounds like maximum entropy - an even, lukewarm spread of energy, which means nothing can happen, nothing can change, without external influence.

Yet, above the changeless empty formlessness, the spirit of God was hovering. God, separate to the universe that he had created, was nevertheless in it, and was this external influence. Something was about to happen.

### **Creation of Light/Night and Day**

In the same way God created the universe, God created Light. God spoke "Let there be light" God acts through his word - he speaks and things happen. He created light, and it is good.

Genesis goes on to say that God separated light from darkness, which brings us back to one of our most fundamental aspects of time - of night and day.

### **Creation of Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets**

Genesis says that on the fourth day God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years". The sun, moon, planets and stars mark time: days, months, seasons and years, as well as the Old Testament annual festivals sacred times, days and years, including Passover, day of atonement, weekly sabbaths, and so on.

### **Creation of Humankind**

At the end of the six days of creation, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." We see God creating humankind, and humankind being in turn demonstrating its creativity - being fruitful, and farming, hunting, working: activities that took place in their seasons. Thus we come to the end of God's six day creation story - space and time, and then everything created in its time in accordance with God's plan.

### **Conclusion**

When God created time, and created the heavens and earth within time, according to plan, and he demonstrated his character. In creating time, he

created history. As creation started with the creation of the heavens and earth and proceeded through the seven days, culminating with a day of rest, so God intended the universe to operate to a plan. The seven days of creation was a linear plan, and history is linear - a beginning, an end and a path in between. This is quite different to the worldview of other faiths which see history as circular or steady state. Buddhism, and other eastern religions see history as circular, endless cycles of death and reincarnation, and other faiths see history as a steady state, things getting marginally better or worse, but ultimately continuing forever.

Christianity and the Bible proclaim that history has a beginning - creation, and an end, when this heaven and this earth will pass away. At the end, in the last days, the Book of Revelation tells us that those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of life, who are washed in the blood of Jesus, will see God's face, and his name will be on their foreheads.<sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.  
Revelation 22:4-5

The heaven and earth that God had made at the beginning will be changed from temporal to eternal. The night that God separated from the light will be no more, the Sun will be gone as the Lord God will give them light directly, and they will reign for eternity.

Right from the beginning when God created the universe with its time, he had a plan for his creation - a beginning and an end. In between, he knew that sin would enter his creation and destroy the perfection he intended, and that he would send his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ into his creation, to die on the cross to take the punishment the world deserved upon himself, and pave the way to return and bring about the new heaven and earth that he promised.

God has a plan, and has been working that plan since before time, since before the beginning of his creation, through the time his Son Jesus was in that creation, and will bring it to fulfillment for all whose names are in his book of life when he takes from time into eternity.

Is your name written in that book of life? Are you part of that plan of God?