

Liturgy Notes for the week of October 22, 2017

Liturgy: The Work of the People

Friends and strangers, passionate believers, hopeful skeptics: All are welcome as full participants or thoughtful observers.

If you are visiting, you'll find a card in the pew pocket explaining our liturgy. Fill out the back side and drop it in the basket to keep in touch.

This Week's Readings

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, — *Genesis 1:1-3*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. — *John 1:1-5*

NOTES

See You Throughout the Week

- Lunch Today: Galaxy Cafe | 4616 Triangle Ave
- Saturday - SheLeads Summit: A one-day conference about how women and men can lead the Church together.

Community Group Discussion Guide

Community Groups are “Families on Mission.”

Learn more at AustinMustardSeed.org/CommunityGroups.

Use this guide to facilitate discussion in your group and in personal reflection.

Check-in

Always begin by checking in. This is a time for everyone in the group to speak briefly. You may choose to always use the basic check-in question “what was one high point and one low point from your past week?” or come up with an “icebreaker” of your own.

Sermon Synopsis // What is God's relationship with creation?

The question already reveals a bit of the answer here – we understand that God is the creator and still at work in creation. What was God's intent and ongoing hope for creation? If we believe God is good and perfect, why are humans and the whole of creation full of evil?

Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time you had a ‘sacred encounter’ while out in nature.
2. How do you understand the original creative act to have happened? (seven literal days, evolution of thousands of years, etc.)
What would you find difficult to let go of as you consider other views?
3. We understand creation to be the outcome of God's persistent experience of love within the trinity. Describe a time when you felt safe to explore something new or creative because you knew you had a strong network of loving relationships.
What would it look like for our community group and church to offer the kind of love and encouragement that would lead to new and creative works?
4. Colossians 1 describes how Jesus somehow holds together all the creation. If we hold this to be true, how can we make sense of the evil in the world?
5. How do you see the relationship between practicing Sabbath and celebrating creation?
What does Sabbath look like in your life?
6. If you were to wake up tomorrow with a honed attention to God's continuing work of creation around you, what kinds of things do you expect you would notice throughout the day?