

How Can Creation Be True?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



A special song service on Creation featuring music from Chris Driesbach

(Your church name, address) (date of worship)

7pm

A Personal Prayer as I Prepare to Worship

Almighty and merciful God, I thank you for your creation. The sun that provides me light belongs to you. The air I breathe belongs to you. The night belongs to you. The day belongs to you. The earth whose fruit generously nourishes me belongs to you. How generous you are to the whole human race. Without you,

the true Sun, I would vanish like a shadow. To you alone I owe my being, my living, and my moving. Therefore, I will live only for you who gave up your Son for me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Please Stand

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

All: our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

Responsive Reading of Psalm 148

P: Praise the Lord. Praise the LORD from the heavens,

All: praise him in the heights above.

P: Praise him, all his angels,

MEN: praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

P: Praise him, sun and moon,

All: praise him, all you shining stars.

P: Praise him, you highest heavens

WOMEN: and you waters above the skies.

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD

MEN: for he commanded and they were created.

P: He set them in place for ever and ever;

WOMEN: he gave a decree that will never pass away.

P: Praise the LORD from the earth,

All: you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children.

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

All: his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

P: He has raised up for his people a horn,

All: the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord!

Responsive Confession of Sins

P: O Holy God and just Judge, if we look to the heavens, we remember that we've offended you in many ways.

C: I've sinned against heaven and against You. I'm not worthy to be called Your child.

P: *If we look to the earth, we realize that through our sin we have disgracefully wasted creation. We've often wasted not only the darkness of night, but also the light of day.*

C: **I've loved and worshipped created things and have not loved and worshipped You, the Creator of all things. My body is your creation, to be used in Your service; but I have used my body in the service of sin. My heart is your creation but my heart is full of evil. My life is to shine with the light of Your love but the stars put me to shame. With sorrow I confess my sin to You, my Creator.**

P: *With joy, we flee to Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

C: **Through Christ, I believe without any doubt that Your grace and the forgiveness of sins are mine - all mine. All creation accuses me. My conscience accuses me. Both tables of the divine Law accuse me. Day and night Satan accuses me.**

P: *But you, O kindest Jesus, take up our defense. You desire that we forsake comfort in any created thing. A refuge has been prepared for us in the satisfaction You made for our sins.*

C: **I have a refuge in Your intercession for me at the right hand of the Father. I take refuge in Your wounds, O Jesus. I hide in You, My Rock. In You, I have protection. In You, I am acquitted of all my sin.**

Please Be Seated

Pronouncement of Forgiveness *(sung by Chris)*

"Prodigal Son"

We continue with the Word of God and with hymns and songs that speak of Creation.

1. THE CREATOR

P: *For this is what the LORD says —*

C: **he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it.**

P: *"I am the LORD, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:15)*

C: **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.** (Genesis 1:1)

Hymn

"How Great Thou Art" # 256 v.1, 3 & 4

2. THE CREATION — HUMAN BEINGS

P: *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* (Genesis 1:27)

C: **For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.** (Psalm 139:13,14)

Hymn *(sung by Chris)*

"God Made It All"

3. THE HEAVENLY BODIES

P: And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.”

C: And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from darkness.

MEN: And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:14-18)

WOMEN: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him? (Psalm 8:3,4)

Hymn”Even Jesus Got the Blues”

4. THE RUIN OF GOD’S CREATION

P: So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

C: After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:23-24)

MEN: Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin. (Romans 5:12)

C: We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Romans 8:22)

Hymn There is a Fountain Filled With Blood (CW 112)

5: THE CREATOR DIES TO REDEEM HIS CREATION

P: God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

MEN: “For your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

WOMEN: The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected,” says your God.

C: “For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD your Redeemer. (Isaiah 54:5-8)

Hymn (sung by Chris)

“Good Shepherd”

Congregation may sing the refrain: **He is the Good Shepherd
I’m never out of his sight
He is the good, Good Shepherd
Guards me with his life**

Creedal Song (sung by Chris & congregation)

“Because My Father Loves Me”

Refrain: **God three in one -- Father, Spirit, Son
All one God and He loves me, He loves me**



Offering (sung by Chris)

“Good Morning, Father”

We Gather Our Offering

Prayers & Lord’s Prayer

Lord’s Supper

P: To prepare yourself for this solemn Meal, I ask you to search your heart and silently answer these Christian Questions:

- Do you confess that you are by nature sinful and unclean?
- Do you realize that you deserve God’s punishment now and forever?
- Are you sorry for your sins?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your crucified and risen Savior?
- Do you intend with God’s help to change your sinful ways?
- Do you believe that in and with the bread and wine of communion, you miraculously receive the body of Jesus given for you and the blood of Jesus shed for you on the cross?

P: Jesus, God’s Son and your Savior, has been holy for you. He died for you. For Jesus’ sake God has forgiven your sins. Through faith in Jesus, forgiveness and eternal life are yours. To assure you of your forgiveness, **Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

Distribution #1 (sung by Chris)

“What Were You Thinking”

What were you thinking as your trust was betrayed? "They're tying my hands While my friends run away?"
Armies of angels would've answered your call. And you didn't struggle at all.

What were you thinking when they spit in your face? I'll get even with them and the whole human race
They crowned you with thorns, though you are more than a king. And you didn't say anything.

"What were you thinking," A person could ask, "Were you out of your mind to agree?
What were you thinking to stand in between An angry Father and me?"

What were you thinking as you hung on the tree? "A curse on them all For laughing at me?"
Of all of these things your thoughts were perfectly free And you purchased heaven for me.

"What were you thinking," A person could ask, "Were you out of your mind to agree?
What were you thinking to stand in between An angry Father and me?"

What were you thinking as you hung on the tree? "A curse on them all For laughing at me?"
Armies of angels would've answered your call. You didn't struggle at all.
No, you said, "Father forgive them all." And you purchased heaven for us all.

#2 (sung by Chris)

"Free at Last"

In every life there's a little rain
We all have heart-aches We've all known pain
But there's a greater hurt And it runs deep
Just being human without God's peace

Free at last, I'm free at last
Known for my future, not my past
It's the gift of God, this faith I have
And I'm so thankful, free at last

Now the fear of death and the dread of hell
Were like a chorus in my head I knew them well
Cause I couldn't guess if I'd burn or fly
Or there'd be nothing when I die

Called out of darkness into light. No more accusations wake me in the night
When I was lost in sin he bought me with a price. Now I'm a slave of Jesus Christ

And he guides my life with a gentle hand. Instead of chaos, I see his plan
And if I suffer here it can't compare - to the glory waiting for me there

Free at last, I'm free at last
Known for my future, not my past
It's the gift of God, this faith I have
And I'm so thankful, free at last

#3 (sung by Chris)

"Sweet Forgiveness"

Sweet Forgiveness

*Sweet forgiveness - oh the sound is so sweet
How could you love the unlovable – how could you love me*

*How do you help someone who doesn't want you
Why reach for one who doesn't believe
How could you love your enemies How could you die to set me free*

*How sweet sound the words our God says when he forgives
Changes the way you think about things, changes the way you live*

*Sinner, are you tired of bearing your burdens
Carryin' the guilt and shame all alone
Sinner aren't you tired of crying, sinner don't you want to come home*

*Oh the freedom and the comfort of finally coming home
To know the depths of his forgiveness, to know the struggle is done*

*They struck and they spit at Jesus, and all the while he was thinking of me
He was bloody and broken and dirty so I could walk away clean*

*Sweet forgiveness - oh the sound is so sweet
How could you love the unlovable – how could you love me*

Thanksgiving Prayer

Benediction

*P: As you go on your way, the Lord go with you –
before you to show you the way;
behind you to encourage you;
beside you to befriend you;
above you to watch over you;
and within you to give you peace –
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

Hello! I'm Chris Driesbach!

I'm a member of St Matthew Lutheran Church in Spokane Washington and during the last 16 years I've been on many musical tours, playing for worship and concerts at more than 800 WELS and ELS churches in 41 states from Fairbanks, Alaska to Cape Coral, Florida. My songs are all original Christian music and traditional hymns and I love to tell the story of the Spirit's powerful work in my stubborn and unbelieving heart.

I played music professionally for 30 years on the west coast. I was an atheist until age 33, and after that sort of a new-age spiritualist. 9 years later I became a Lutheran and a Christian at the same time in 1995. Faith Lutheran Church and Pastor James Oldfield in Anchorage, Alaska were my first church and pastor. We went through a 22-week Bible study course together. Pastor Oldfield read to me out of the Bible when I asked him all of the hardest questions I could think of and after 6 weeks of his class I was given the gift of faith by the Spirit working through God's Word. My life completely changed, of course!

I've been writing Christian songs for the last 18 years, including a song about my personal experience with hurricane Katrina. I have Christian CDs available: **"Lifted"** in 2006 and 2007, **"Feed Your Faith"** in 2008, **"On the Road for Jesus,"** a compilation of two earlier recordings, a collection of hymns called, **"Hymns for Him,"** **"One Cross, Three Nails"** done in 2012, **"Jesus Wins!"** 2016 and my new one **"Hymns With Friends"** finished 2018.

On June 18th 2022, I was married to my wonderful wife, Donna. She serves as an amazing preschool director and teacher at St Matthew, our WELS church in Spokane Washington. Last year with the help of her aides, she taught some 56 children, ages 3 and 4 in four different weekly sessions! Donna and I reside in the former parsonage on the church property. She loves to travel to other churches with me when she can.

I have a deep desire to go sing my songs and tell the happy story about Jesus and meet and worship with my brothers and sisters around the USA. This work God is letting me do is a dream come true for me!

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