

"IT IS GOOD!"

A SERMON BASED ON THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF GENESIS (1:1-2:4a) AND PRESENTED FOR ORLEAN UMC ON JUNE 7, 2020----- (THE FIRST SUNDAY OF A SIX WEEK SERMON SERIES THAT WILL TAKE US THROUGH SOME OF THE MAJOR THEMES IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS)

IN MORE NORMAL TIMES THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE GATHERED IN THE SANCTUARY AT ORLEAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND THEY WOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED WORSHIP. REMEMBER THOSE DAYS?-----REMEMBER THAT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE?

HOPEFULLY IT WAS GOOD

AND THEN IT WAS TIME FOR THE SERMON,
THAT TIME WHEN THE PREACHER SHARES
THOUGHTS OR INSIGHTS BUT ALWAYS,
HOPEFULLY SOMETHING RELEVANT TO THE
FAITH JOURNEY, HOPEFULLY, SOMETHING GOD-
BREATHED,
HOPEFULLY, SOMETHING THAT OPENS THE
MINDS AND HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE TO THE
ACTION OF GOD IN THE WORLD AND IN THEIR
LIVES.

AND THE PREACHER HOPED AND PRAYED WITH
ALL HIS HEART THAT IT WAS GOOD.

**AND ONE OF THE WAYS THE PREACHER HOPED
TO HELP IT TO BE GOOD
WAS BY USING EITHER THE NARRATIVE
LECTIONARY OR A WELL THOUGHT THROUGH
AND PLANNED SERMON SERIES THAT FOCUSES
ON A PARTICULAR TOPIC OR BOOK OF THE
BIBLE -----WE HAVE DONE BOTH HERE AT
ORLEAN**

**IF WE FOLLOW THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—
WE FIND A SET OF READINGS THAT WILL TAKE
US THROUGH THE BIBLE-----**

BEGINNING AT THE BEGINNING....

THE STORY OF CREATION,

AND THEN THE STORIES ABOUT GOD'S

COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL,

AND THEN THE STORIES OF SLAVERY AND

FREEDOM IN THE EXODUS,

AND THEN THE RISE—AND FALL—OF KINGS,

AND THEN THE TIME OF EXILE AND PROPHETS.

AND THEN—OH THEN!—JESUS.

JESUS AS HE IS KNOWN IN THE GOSPELS OF

MATTHEW---MARK---LUKE AND JOHN....

AND IN THE EPISTLES OR LETTERS FOUND IN
THE NEW TESTAMENT –AND IN THE ACTS OF THE
APOSTLES—THE STORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

AND OH I HOPED AND PRAYED AND TRUSTED IN
MY HEART,

THAT IT WILL BE GOOD.

IN THE BEGINNING...IT WAS GOOD.

**THE STORY OF GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE BEGINS
IN MYSTERIOUS DARKNESS...**

THERE IS WATER,

AND THERE IS A WIND FROM GOD,

SPIRIT OF GOD, BREATH OF GOD.

GOD IS AN ARTIST, AND ARTISTS NEED LIGHT...

SO GOD SPOKE AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

AND IT WAS GOOD.

**AND ONE BY ONE THE DAYS... OR MAYBE IT WAS
MILLENNIA... OF CREATION UNFOLDED.**

**AND GOD SAW GOD'S GOOD CREATION
UNFOLDING, OR MAYBE EVOLVING...**

**AND GOD'S CREATION, GOD'S ARTISTRY, WAS
GOOD, SO VERY GOOD.**

ALL OF IT, GOD-BREATHED:

EVERY LEAF

EVERY BLADE OF GRASS

EVERY LUSCIOUS BLUEBERRY

EVERY DEWY-EYED COW

**EVERY COLOR, FRAGRANCE, TEMPERATURE,
ELEVATION**

**HEIGHTS OF MOUNTAINS, DEPTHS OF OCEAN,
SPARKLE OF STARS...**

**ALL OF IT, EVERY THING, TOO MANY ZILLIONS OF
THINGS AND PLACES AND SPECIFICITIES TO
EVEN BEGIN TO MENTION:**

**ALL OF IT, THE GOD-BREATHED, THE WORD OF
GOD, THE BREATH OF GOD CREATING:**

AND IT WAS GOOD, SO VERY, VERY GOOD.

**AND GOD CREATED PEOPLE,
PEOPLE TO BE CO-CREATORS WITH GOD.**

THAT'S WHAT SETS US APART.

AN AMOEBA CAN FIND FOOD.

**A HUMAN BEING CAN PLANT AND GROW FOOD
FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF GIVING IT
AWAY.**

A DEER CAN FIND A COOL STREAM.

**A HUMAN BEING CAN HELP TO BRING SAFE
WATER TO PARTS OF THE WORLD
WHERE PEOPLE ARE DYING FOR LACK OF IT.**

A SPARROW CAN CREATE A NEST, A SHELTER.

**HUMAN BEINGS CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO
SHELTER ONE ANOTHER.**

**A PRIDE OF LIONS CAN HUNT A HERD OF
GAZELLES.**

**HUMAN BEINGS CAN FIND WAYS TO LIVE
TOGETHER PEACEFULLY....*WE REALLY CAN
FOLKS-----WE REALLY CAN!!***

**THIS IS WHAT SETS US APART. GOD THE
CREATOR HAS GIVEN US CREATIVE CAPACITY.
WE ARE GOD-BREATHED CREATIONS, AND VERY
SPECIFIC CREATIONS AT THAT:**

**GOD CREATED HUMANKIND IN THE DIVINE
IMAGE,
IN THE IMAGE OF GOD WE WERE CREATED;
MALE AND FEMALE WE WERE CREATED.**

**WE WERE CREATED TO BE CREATIVE:
WE ARE CO-CREATORS WITH GOD.**

**WE ARE CALLED TO THINK CREATIVELY, TO ACT
CREATIVELY,
TO SOLVE PROBLEMS CREATIVELY.**

THAT IS OUR GIFT.

**AND IT IS OUR GIFT, AND IT CAN BE, SO VERY,
VERY GOOD.....**

WHEN WE USE IT.

**SO LET US BE WHO WE WERE CREATED TO BE:
LIVING IMAGES OF THE CREATOR.**

**LET US KNOW THAT THE TOMATO FROM THE
VINE IS, INDEED, GOOD,
AND IT IS BETTER WHEN WE GIVE IT AWAY.**

LET US KNOW THAT WE ARE GOD-BREATHED
FOR DOMINION, NOT DOMINATION,
AND “DOMINION” IS TENDER CARE.

LET US KNOW THAT WE ARE CALLED TO USE
OUR GOD-BREATHED HEARTS, SOULS, MINDS,
AND STRENGTH,
ALL IN THE LOVING SERVICE OF THE ONE WHO
GAVE US BREATH,
AND IN SERVICE OF ALL THE GOD-BREATHED
CREATION.

AND IT IS ALL VERY, VERY GOOD.

**PRAISE GOD AND MAY IT BE SO FOR YOU AND
FOR ME.....**

AMEN.