

Let us pray: Lord our God, I pray that you would send your spirit to us this morning. Open our hearts to hear your word, open our minds to learn of your love. May we not be so locked into our own ways of thinking that we lose sight of the new things you have in store. Be near to us this morning, Lord. This we pray in the name of Father, Son and Spirit, Amen.

I am very excited to have the children so involved in the service today. What a celebration it is for us here at St. David's to have so many young people here, bringing us energy and hope. Thank you to all of you, thank you to all of the congregation who have taken a turn working as a Sunday school teacher, to build up a new generation in the faith, and thank you to Diana for getting so much organized for this Sunday, even with all your business preparing for the VBS program.

It's a great celebration, to see children graduating from the Sunday school, and I'm looking forward to seeing you grow up year by year. It's exciting to have you involved today, and to think of how you will grow up and do amazing things for Jesus later in life.

I want to ask for a show of hands: how many people in the congregation today participated in a presentation Sunday when they were a child? Now, here's a trickier question, maybe. Keep your hands up if that Sunday was more than 30 years ago: 40? 50? 60(1957)? 70 (1947)? That's amazing.

So I have a question for some of you folks who had your hands up at the end: Has this church changed much over that time? Of course it has. Like all of creation, we change and grow in new ways over time. God doesn't create things to stay the same.

When we look at our reading today, the one I read from Genesis, that really stands out: God doesn't make things to last forever and never

change. The very first thing God does is make day and night, bringing a system of change to the unchanging void. There was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God makes the sky and the sea, the second day,

On day three, God creates earth, the dry land. Each morning, the light shines on a world that is different from the day before, each day there is something new and beautiful.

And on the fourth day, God begins to fill the world he made: On day four, he makes the stars and moon to fill the night and the Sun to fill the day. Three days after he made day and night, he fills them.

On the fifth day, God keeps filling the world with new things: he makes creatures for the sea and the sky, filling the water and the air that he made three days before.

And then, three days after he made the land, what do you think he does? He fills it! God creates all of the animals on land, and he makes humans too.

And after all of that, God takes a day to rest, the seventh day, the Sabbath. Creation has been completed. Everything is made now, and it is good.

I don't have too much experience with creating worlds, but I do know what it is like to look at something and say "It is good". I'm reminded specifically of the times when I clean my house: It's not quite the same as creation, it's just cleaning, but bear with me. I clear all the surfaces, I put everything in its place, I clean all the nooks and crannies, I ask Michelle to take a look at it, I realize there are nooks and crannies I didn't know about, I do my best, and then I stand back and say "Wow, look at that. It looks great. It is good." And sometimes, if I did a particularly good job, I really

don't want to mess it up. I wish I could just leave it clean and never mess it up! But that's not why I cleaned it. I didn't put in that work to let it sit there, the same forevermore.

And when God created the world, he did the same thing. Now, you're all lucky, because I happened to bring a piece of creation with me today. This is an apple, and I'm going to show you something, and teach you something about who God is. If I cut this apple open, like this, what do I find inside? What are these little brown bits in here? In God's good creation, what do I find? A seed. And what would happen if I planted this seed? A tree would grow. This apple has the seed of an apple tree inside it. It isn't designed to stay as an apple forever, but to produce an entirely new tree.

If you would like another example of God creating something new inside of something good he made, I'd invite you to say hello to my lovely wife Michelle at coffee hour, and depending on how the baby is doing today, there might be some physical evidence of just how alive that baby is. These days, I can sometimes see the baby kicking from across the room.

When God created the world, he created it to go on creating. He did not bless the world with life for it to stay the same forever. Verse 11 tells us God said "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds" The plants produce seeds. God's good creation creates, a new generation created from the old. This presentation Sunday, we present the children of St. David's, a new creation. And this church community, St. David's itself, is a new creation from the community of all those years ago when the oldest among us took part in their own presentation Sundays. God did not make us, he did not make this church, to remain eternally on this earth

unchanged, looking the same today as it did yesterday. God doesn't create things to stay the same.

We can so easily fall into this trap: we can think that the end goal of our lives on earth is a static goal: that the ideal life is one that is so good that it never changes. We allow ourselves to be bent out of shape when something that is good doesn't last forever, but I tell you the truth: not a single plant that God created on that day is still alive. Not a single animal, not Adam, not Eve. Even stars die and are born. They were good, crafted to perfection by a perfect hand, but they were not designed to stay the same forever.

Look around this church, at the walls, the windows, the pews, the carpet. They are good. They are home to us, but they were not built to stay forever. As with creation, seeds grow into fruition, and our church is changed piece by piece.

And look at you own life: how much do you see things changing around you? For some of the youngest among us, you're just finishing a year at school. What if you liked your teacher and you are sad to leave, and have to go to a new class in the fall? Maybe it will even be a new school! But you weren't created to stay in the same class forever.

Or maybe it's other changes that have us worried, maybe we find ourselves wishing our lives could stay the same because we'd just got it figured out. But God didn't create us to live lives that never change. My life has changed a lot recently, and it will change a lot more soon. It's easy for me to start imagining that life will "settle down" once we "get into a rhythm" with the baby, but I'm realizing that isn't really what is going to happen.

So maybe you are faced with a change that has happened in your life, a good change or a bad one. Know that all that God has made is made

to change. Or maybe you are hoping for a change, a change in your circumstance, in someone you love, or even in yourself. Know that God doesn't create things to stay the same. The seed lives in the apple for a while, but each tree is proof that they do not remain there forever, each seed slowly grows into a tree.

And as the children of this congregation continue to grow, may we have the wisdom to encourage them, to listen to them, to show them how to grow and change and to have the humility to see this church renewed by them. God doesn't create things to stay the same. This is good news. Amen.