

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us come together in faith today.

People: We trust in no other name but Jesus!

Leader: Let us desire to walk humbly with our God.

People: He satisfies us with good things!

Leader: Let us be thankful for the peace He provides.

People: We honor the Lord who is merciful and gracious!

Scripture Text:

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 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.

Message:

From the Beginning

How does God feel about the world?

How does God feel about our city?

How does God feel about our Church?

How does God feel about you?

Sometimes we wonder what other people think about us?

((Anxiety))

God wants us to know how He feels about us.

*From the Beginning God has revealed what He thinks of us and how He responds to us.

In those first 2 verses of the Bible God reveals what He thinks and how He responds.

Vs 1 - God creates the world

Vs 2 – The world has problems

The World Has Problems

I probably don't need to convince you that the world has problems.

...our city has problems.

...our church has problems.

...you have problems.

How does God respond to us and our problems? The answer is in verse 2 of your Bible.

There are 3 problems in verse 2...

Formless Chaos

The world was formless. The word means chaos and confusion.

Try to imagine a world that has no up or down... no differentiation between darkness and light... good and evil...

The earth exists in verse 2, but not as we know it now... there was chaos and confusion in the world.

Empty Void

The earth existed, yet it was completely empty and void. The world was vacuous. You know how you might call someone vacuous to describe a person whose head is empty, void of thoughts and ideas? The earth was vacuous... nothing existed within it. No purpose was found in it.

Darkness

We can come close to understanding darkness but imagine if light never had existed. The word for darkness means obscure and secretive. This was the state of the world.

If the world had a purpose, no one could ever see it. The world was dark & obscure and its purpose was a secret.

This was the state of the World. Formless, Empty, & Dark. ...But then something amazing happens.

Genesis 1:2 (NIV) 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.

It says the Spirit of God hovered over the waters... it says that God's Spirit, the very presence of God... drew near to this creation. One translation says "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

God saw a world that had nothing visible to offer... it only had chaos, emptiness, and darkness... and the God of creation, the God of Your Bible, drew near to have a face-to-face encounter with creation.

From the Beginning

This is God's plan from the beginning. This is not just a strange story in your Bible. This is your story.

If you feel like your life is in chaos and nothing seems to work; how could God love you? I want you to see YOURSELF in the 2nd verse of your Bible.

God sees our chaos and is not disgusted and reviled by it. God does not turn His back on our chaos... God draws near to the chaotic creation and recreates it.

God brings order to our Chaos. The commands of God bring order...

Love God and love your neighbor...

Do not lie or steal...

Honor your mother and father...

Pray for your enemies...

The commands of God bring order to our formless chaos.

If you feel empty and lacking purpose, I want you to see YOURSELF in the 2nd verse of your Bible.

God sees our emptiness and does not turn away. Instead God draws near and begins to fill his creation with wonderful gifts.

Day 3 – God fills the world with vegetation.

Day 4 – God fills the heavens with the sun, the moon, and stars.

Day 5 – God fills the skies with birds and the seas with fish.

Day 6 – God fills the land with animals and then His crowning achievement: God creates man & woman and gives them the

command to be fruitful & multiply... The God who filled and empty world invites us to fill this world with Him.

If you are empty today, God wants to fill you.

Fill you will His Spirit.

Fill you with faith and hope.

Fill you with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control.

A world that was chaotic...

A world that was empty...

Finally... a dark world.

The world was dark. Its purpose was obscured and secret. No one could see the purpose of this creation.

But after God sets chaos to order... after God sets emptiness to fullness... He then takes that dark, obscure, purposeless creation and reveals His plan.

This is how God responds to our darkness. He reveals purpose and a plan.

From the beginning of your Bible God has revealed HOW HE FEELS ABOUT US and HOW HE RESPONDS TO US.

GOD WANTS US TO BE FORMED, FILLED, FULFILLED

This is what God wants for us.

This is our message to the world. The world has problems, but God still draws near.

If you feel formless and chaotic...

If you feel empty...

If you feel dark and purposeless...

God wants to draw near to you.

Genesis 1:2 (KJV) ...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

God always draws near to create. He is not a distant God. God seeks to meet you face to face.

Invitation

Benediction

May the God of all creation, who has loved us from the beginning, speak light, order, and fill us with the Spirit.