

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Trinity



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, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

What Does it Say?

- Emotional reaction
- What's the setting?
- Who are the characters?
- How would you summarize it?
- What happened before/after?
- What scriptural references do you pick up?



Spirit

- wind = spirit = breath = רוּחַ
ruach (“roo'-akh”)
- Let “us” make? Who is “us”?

“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, ‘Let us make humankind in our image...’”

Enûma Eliš

- Babylonian creation epic from between C7 – C19 BC
 - Genesis perhaps C6th BC
- War between the gods
 - Tiamat = sea / chaos
 - C.f. “sea monsters” in Genesis
 - C.f. How God creates in Genesis
- Humans are there to work for the gods
 - “Ea created mankind/On whom he imposed the service of the gods, and set the gods free”
 - Genesis “So God created humankind in his image..”



Questions

- Would it matter to you if the Genesis text is more recent than the *Enûma Eliš*?
- Do you think it's significant that there is no "battle in heaven"? That God creates just like that?
- Have you noticed that God says "Let *us* make humankind in our image"?



What Does It Mean?



What are we talking about when we talk about God?

- God is fundamentally not understandable. But that doesn't stop us talking about God.



The Trinity

- Whatever we see Jesus doing, we see God doing, and the Spirit of Jesus is at work in the world right now, and it is all God.
- “Trinity” is a shorthand way to talk about the oneness and mystery of God



People

- God creates humanity to be in relationship with God



Questions

- Do you think it's significant that God created humanity in God's "own image"?
- What do you think it means to be in God's image?



What Does It Mean for Me?



Life is Meaningful

- God creates humanity to be in relationship with God
- Just because the universe is (a) large and (b) old doesn't mean that you are unimportant to God. Quite the contrary!



Creation

- God says of creation “very good.”
- We are an interdependent part of the whole of creation
- As the coronavirus crisis has made very clear



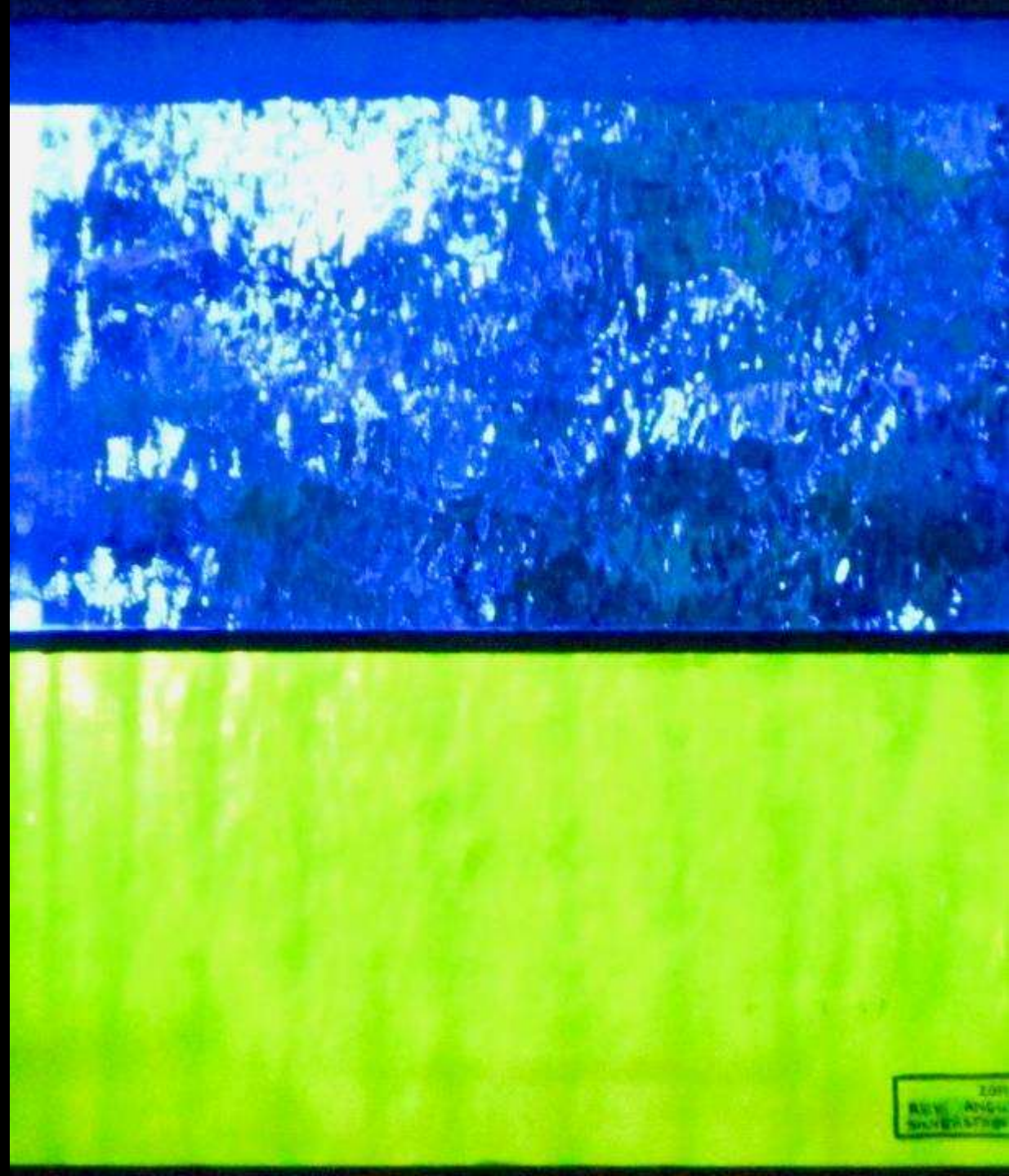
Relationship

- We are created to give and receive love from God and one another.



Creator

- God creates and loves the whole universe

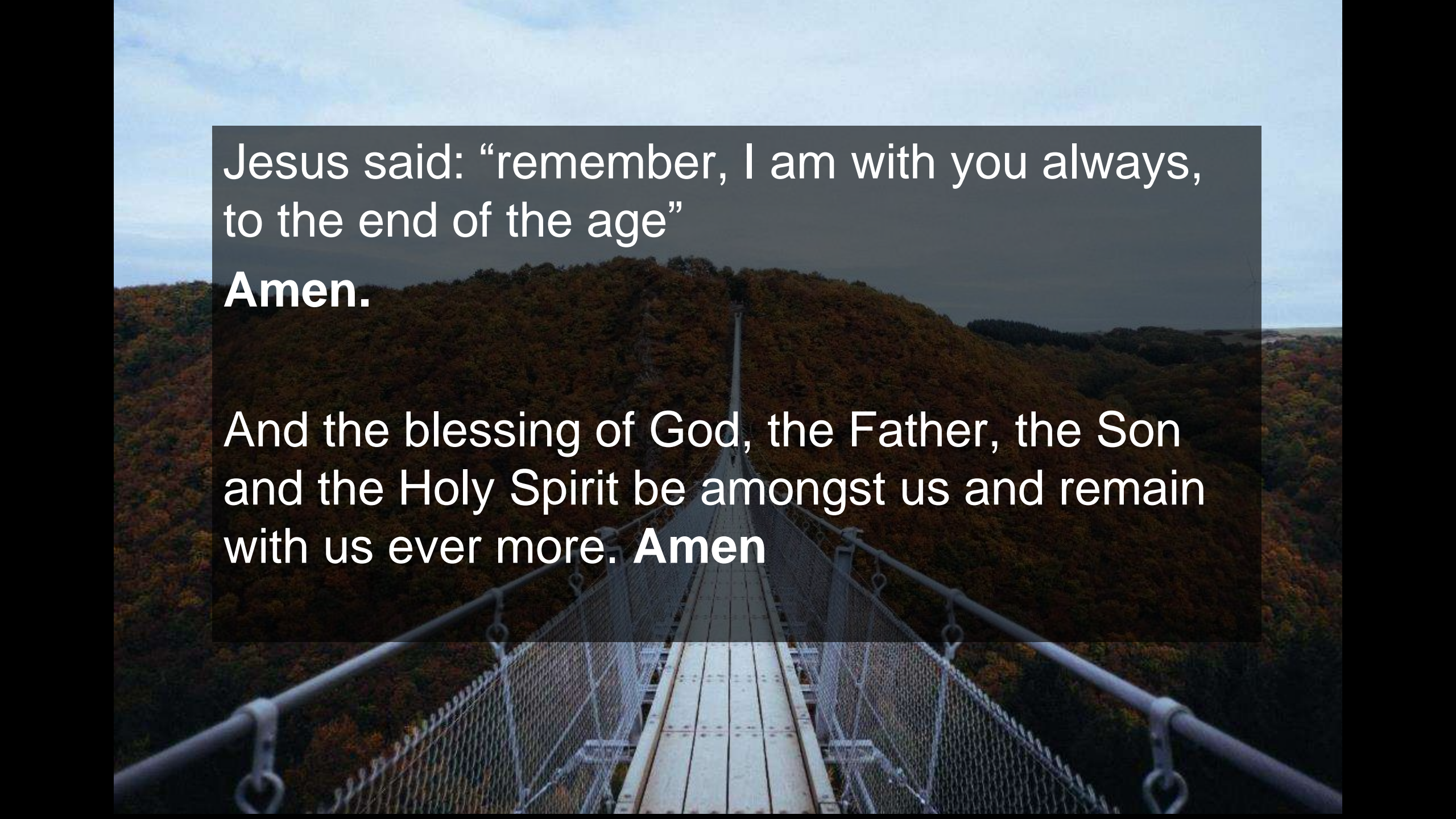


- Have you ever thought of the idea of the Trinity as having a particular personal significance?
- What do you mean by “freedom”?
- What do you mean by “love”?
- What would church look like if it really reflected the idea that we are made for one another?



Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.



A perspective view of a suspension bridge stretching across a deep valley. The bridge has wooden planks for the walkway and metal chain-link railings on both sides. The valley below is filled with dense trees, some showing autumn colors. The sky is overcast and grey.

Jesus said: “remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age”

Amen.

And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain
with us ever more. **Amen**

