**New Kilpatrick**

**10th October**

**Genesis 1:1-13**

**Podcast**

**Gathering**

Creating

The pause

Before the inauguration

Creating

Twisting thought and word

With breath and imagination

Moving the poetry of longing

Into the beauty of being

Dust becoming shape

And splashed with light

Creating:

The word

Spoken into life

And we are here

**Welcome**

Hello… thank you, as always, for the invitation to join you today…we’re meeting you in our own season of creation… leading us towards COP26, but we always have a season, around harvest, when we celebrate creation… it just has more focus this year…

If you wish to listen to the podcast… then perhaps talking a walk when you are listening… and experience the fresh air and the colours of this season, might make the words and the music a little more three dimensional… because the colours are slipping through autumn now and orange and red slashes are appearing through the trees…

Maybe that is what we should turn church into at this time: a collective walk simply to experience creation in the unique and brilliant colours of autumn… the perfect way to do church when you are socially distanced and under masks in the church itself… However we enjoy the faith community today… let us draw together… whoever we are… in prayer…

**Prayer**

As the light of this day stretches

And curves around our beings

We pray, O Creator, that she might brighten our souls

With that same light of creation

From which we are made

As the sound of air flowing

Winds its way around us

We pray, O Creator, that such breath of life

That same breath that named creation

Names us and claims us as your own

As the peace of this community

Invites the possibilities of life

We pray, O Creator, that we make community

With all of creation

Bound together as in those first of days

May we step down from our privileges theology

That makes everything centre on us

That has you, thinking we, are all that is important

May we find a new way to understand our story

To reimagine our place in this pattern of life

Finding ourselves as stewards, gardeners, partners

As the pattern of your love

That cannot help itself create each of us

We pray, O Creator, that she will renew us each day

In sunrises and dawn choruses

Made new in creations song

And all creation

Sings to you

A song of love

A cry of justice

A groan of pain

And a hope for tomorrow

Hear us, Creator

In the global prayer

Our Creator from heaven

May your name be hallowed

May your kingdom birth

May your will come to bloom

On the earth

As it does in heaven

May we receive today

Our share of the grain of the land

Untangle the knots within us

That we can mend our ties with others

May we not be deluded by the world

But freed to live more truly, justly, lovingly

It is you who spoke the opening word of creation

Out of you flows the first light of the cosmos

Then and now

And evermore

Amen

**Scripture Introduction**

If there were words we wanted to use as the soundtrack to this season of creation, it would have to be Genesis 1… iconic… They feel ancient though there are more ancient words than these, but the poetry and imagination and intent of this passage, stirs something old in us… So let us hear them again… and let them do what holy words do best… intrigue… challenge… and find a home… Genesis 1

**Reading Genesis 1:1-13**

**Reflection**

A fabulous poem about creation… We need a lot of poetry in a season of creation… The stumbling block is that many see church as high culture… we have the poetry… the music… the creeds… the theology… but I was always told, begin with popular culture… and from that common ground… draw people into God…

Okay, lets do that… Blankety Blank is back… remember those days when this was what everyone was watching… I’m not sure how popular culturally it is now… I never watched it this week… but its back… and people are given a word or two with a blank and they have to fill that in… and see if their suggestion is matched by the suggestions of any of six celebrities…

I’m not sure this is what my lecturers in liturgical and sacramental theology were thinking about… but go with me…

Let’s play a church version of that right now… I’ll give you a phrase… you fill in the bank… but being church we’ll change the rules and give you… what… five tries… “My God is BLANK”… okay… don’t think too hard… thinking too hard has never been a winner for blankety blank… How would you fill that in… “My God is BLANK”…

I’ll go an pick some weeds while you think of that… Actually there are no weeds in this garden as the church gardeners are just fabulous… Okay, enough… “My God is BLANK”… what would you go for…

It would be only fair for me to give you my list… Love, justice, relationship, community, creator… It would be interesting to see what all of you thought… seriously, do send them in… mail@nkchurch.org.uk…

The problem for me is… I put God as creator last on the list… as if it was just tucked in there at the end… almost not important…

So… are there other lists like this, where there is a litany of God’s characteristics? Well, yes. We have the creeds… the one we use most… is the Apostles creed… and there is says… I believe in God, Father, Almighty, creator of heaven and earth…

The writers of this creed prioritised God as creator a little more, first as a parent, second as almighty and third as creator…

It would be interesting to look at all our denominational statements about God… and where creator is placed on them… I looked at the church of Scotland one and it was seventh: We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God is love, we praise God the father who created the universe…

but let’s jump that and go straight to the bible’s list as it is probably more reliable… “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”…

For the bible, God’s creativity is the first characteristic… Unfortunately not many of us speak Hebrew… so you will have to trust me on this… The first word in the Bible means: in the beginning, ie this is the start of the list of everything that will be said about god… and immediately after that, the first word about God is……. Yep, created… This is the first verb about God’s activity in the bible… and only then is God mentioned…

Now, this offers an interesting insight about priorities of the church and of our faith… All other creeds and doctrines demote creation except the one that actually matters: the bible… It starts with creation, it doesn’t have to because it isn not a history or a chronology… and can I suggest that, starting points… those things first on the list… are what are seen as foundational…

If the Bible chooses… to say first God creates… then that is our starting point for everything else… Creation is the structure around which everything else we say about God hangs… and it is the context in which we understand everything else we say about God… and everything we understand about ourselves…

And so when we don’t make that our foundational context… when we create policies and doctrines and projects where creation is not in the framework… then regardless of our faith or non-faith… regardless of our politics or passions… we do not get our priorities right.

It begins in our relationship with creation… the environment… ecology… Our first words for COP26… for our renewing of our faith… for the restructuring of the church… begins with the first description of God in the bible… My God is… creator… and everything else… hangs on that first foundational value…

**News**

Plastic Fantastic

Bulletin: have a wee read as all the zoom logins are there

Monday: Quiz, 7pm

Tuesday Singsong 2pm and mens’ association in person in the church at 3pm but open to everyone

Friday bulletin posted out and coffee pot

Sunday 17th a special service in the sanctuary led by members of the congregation and Bearsden festival are running Operation Play Outdoors for Children: details are in the bulletin

And for those on YouTube, like yourselves, next week we offer something from somewhere else, there will be a variety of options to choose and take a wee trip through worship.

**Prayers for Others**

Creating God

In all that is created

May we find a place

For love and grace and truth and justice

May that place be found in our relationships with planet and people

So that creation can finally cease having to cry for the hungry

And land that is stolen and resources denuded

May that place be found in our relationships we have with justice

For creation, for all of life

That is loved over rather than fought over

May that place be found in our relationships with the least

So that their names and voices are heard

In a world too fascinated by the powerful and their wealth

Creating God

In our prayers for others

May we being with ourselves

And decide to live differently towards each other

Towards planet

Towards the future

May our prayers for others

Be a change we make ourselves

To live more justly

More humbly

More generously

That when we mention those poor

Homeless

Abused

Hungry

We make a change in our priorities

To make life better for others

It is a hard prayer for us

But may you hear us

Challenge us

Call us again

As we bring here, now

Our families and friends

Those who are unwell and those who are recovering

Those worried and anxious

Those overwhelmed by pandemics

Those whose mental health is poor

And let us bring here our leaders

And decision makers

Our future thinkers

Our environmentalists

And mostly our poor

And with them, the poor

May we linger longest

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**