



Monday January 4, 2021

Prepared for you by

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FIRST READING: GENESIS 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

What an appropriate way to start the New Year, with this lesson from the beginning of everything. These few verses from Genesis of course lead our imaginations into the rest of the story of creation. We may only have 5 verses in our worship service on Sunday, but we know the whole story. This is just the first day but we think of the rhythm and structure of each day that follows. There are many important things this passage is telling us. First is to notice that everything begins with God. Second of all is the pronouncement that what God created and saw “was good.” That pronouncement will repeat each day of the creation story. I just feel that we cannot over emphasize that word, “good.” The understanding that God creates “good” covers the whole creation. And in fact at the end of creating we are told that what God saw was indeed “very good.” That is good news! Also to me it says that we may hold ourselves to a high standard. Because of God’s goodness we may look for and appreciate the good. We can expect and strive for the good. Not everyone believes that or lives accordingly. There is another philosophy/theology that looks upon the fallen-ness of the structures of human life and then says, “That’s the way it is” as a justification for not seeking the good, for conforming our ways to the fallen patterns of the world. This story at the beginning of the Bible and at the beginning of the year informs me that God sets the bar higher for us. This story says that goodness is the standard to live by. Happy New Year and may our lives be radiant with the goodness of the Lord.