



*Photo by James Gardner*

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!



Happy Thanksgiving!







*Photos by Rose Lucas*



*Photo by Rose Lucas*





*Photos by Rose Lucas*

Back in the Saddle Again!

*Wednesday Nov 22*

Join us for Bible study  
on Wednesdays at 10 am,  
in person or by Zoom.



# Prayers for Advent 2023



O come let us adore Him  
Christ the LORD!

# Happy Birthday, Nelson!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.  
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.  
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.  
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.  
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.  
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.  
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.  
The Lord bless and keep you.  
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.  
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.





# Genesis 1:27 (NRSV)



**God created humankind in His image.**

In the image of God He created them,  
male and female He created them.

## Responsive Reading – Psalm 8: 3-9 (NIV-updated)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what are human beings that you think of them; mere mortals that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.



You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds, and the animals  
of the wild...

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name  
in all the earth!



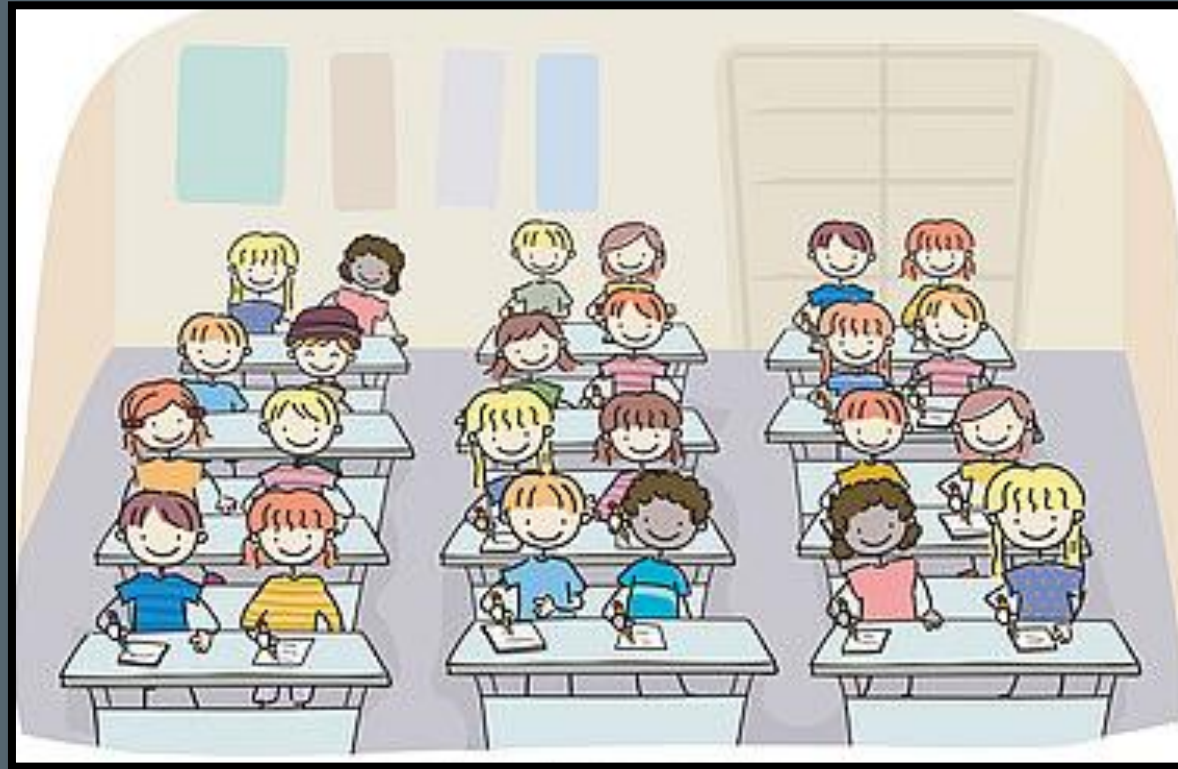




# O Lord My God - UMH 77



# Lessons for the ADULTS



Created in God's Image



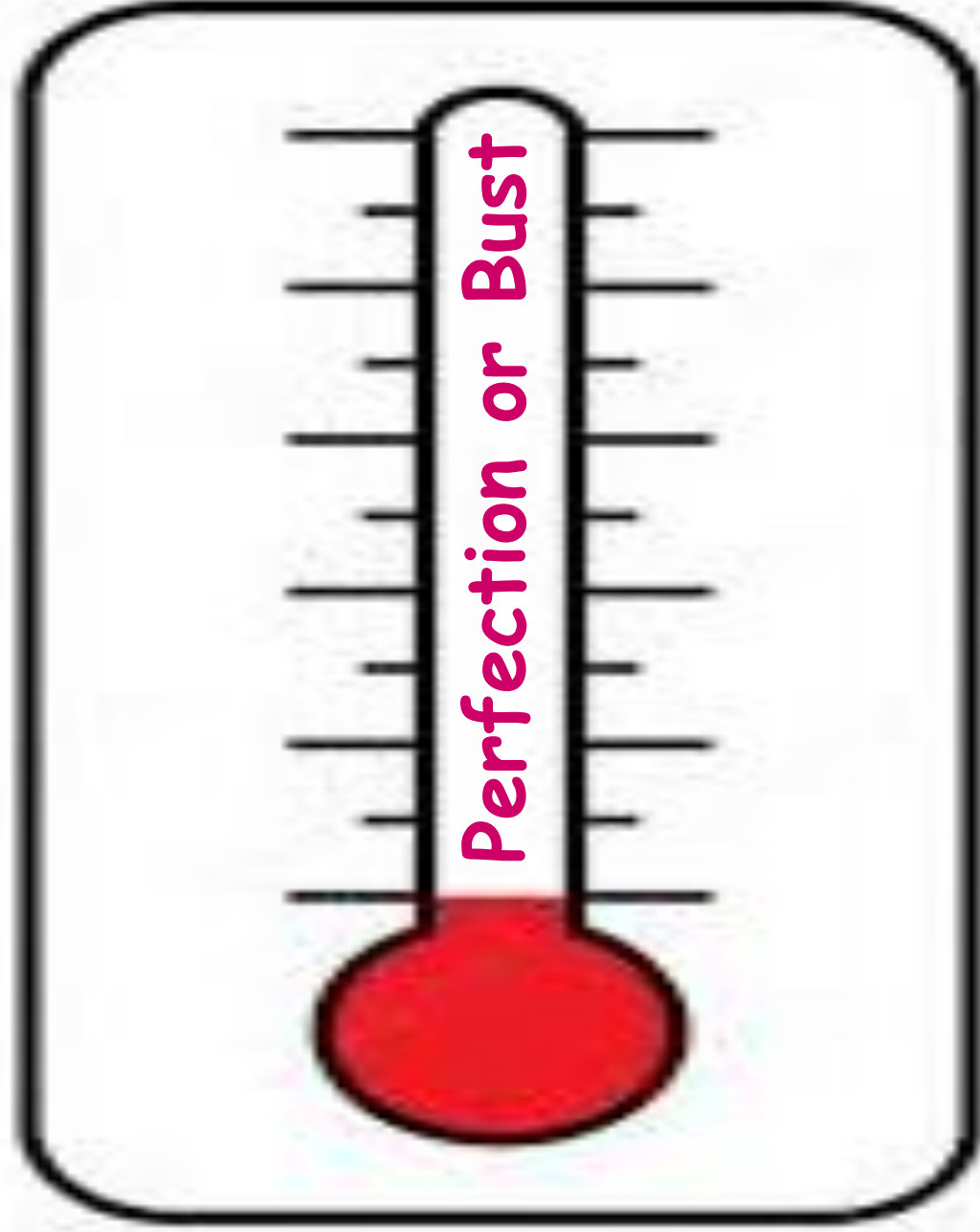


What's on my heart?



# My creative gifts







## Genesis 1: 1-4

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



And God said, "**Let there be** light," and there was light.  
**God saw that the light was good**, and he separated the light  
from the darkness.

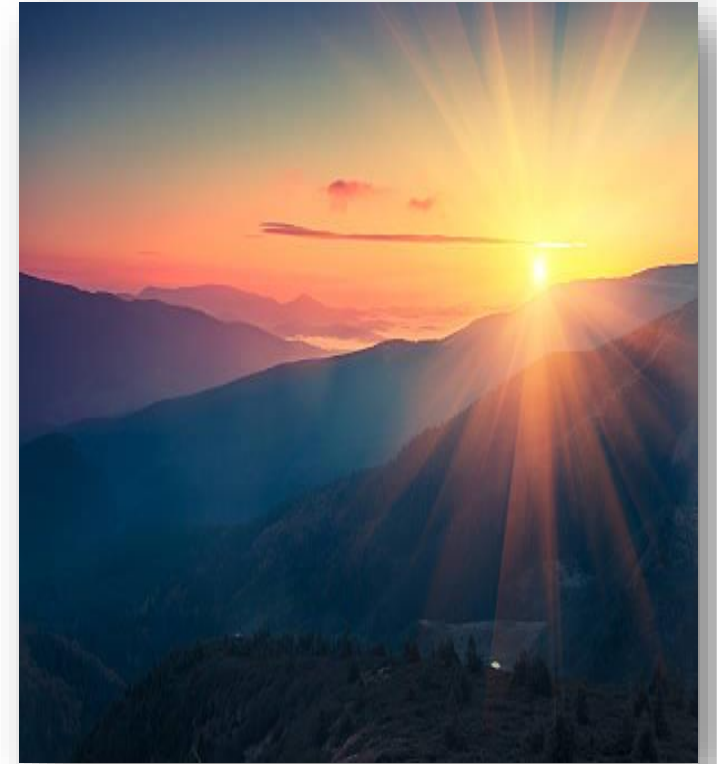


## Genesis 1: 9-10

And God said, "**Let the water under the sky be gathered** to one place, and let dry ground appear."

**And it was so.** God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas."

**And God saw that it was good.**





## Genesis 1:11-12

Then 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."

**And it was so.** The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.

**And God saw that it was good.**



# Opening Prayer

Loving God,

You created the world in stages, and following each mighty act of creation, you saw that the work was good. Then, when your work was finished—before you rested—you pronounced the sum total of your wonderful creation as ***very good***.

Lord, the creation of our world and this splendorous universe demonstrates that in addition to being our God of love, kindness, mercy, and justice, you are also our God of infinite creativity. From this we know that creativity is part of your nature.

Remind us that because we are created in your image, we, too, are imbued with your sense of creativity. This gift flows from you. Help us to nurture and guide our creativity in ways that glorify your name and reflect all that you represent. *Amen*



# The Creation Pattern:

Then God said, "Let there be..."

And it was so..

And God saw that it was good.

# God's Creation Pattern for Us:

"Let there be..." -- Imagination and plan

And it was so.. -- Action

And God saw that it was good.

--SEEING THE GOOD



The United Church  
of Canada



**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others**

**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God...**

## Genesis 2: 2~3

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day **he rested from all his work.**

Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it **he rested from all the work** of creating that he had done.



## Continuous Creation

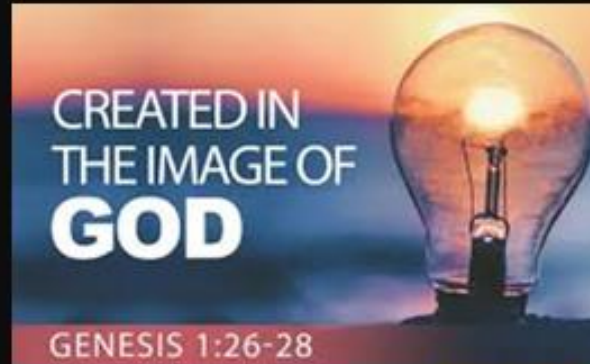


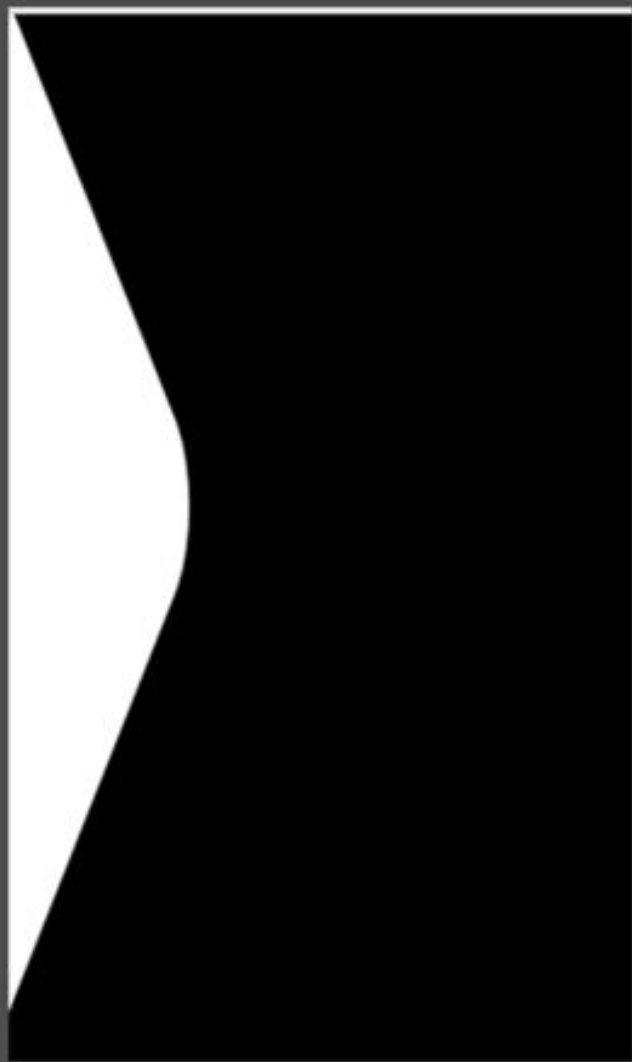
- **Phase one: Creatio Originalis**
  - God’s initial creation of the universe.
- **Phase two: Creatio Continua**
  - God’s creation in the time between original creation and the Kingdom of Glory
- **Phase three: Creatio Nova**
  - Fulfillment of God’s ultimate promise, realized in the return of Christ and recreation of a new world.

Creativity is an ingredient that makes  
up the recipe of God's character.



We are created  
in God's image.





The Fruit of the *Spirit*



Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
and  
Faithfulness



**The Body of Christ.  
Potential to transform the world.**



**“Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.”**



(Luke 10:11b)

# Community Prayer

O Lord our God,

How awesome it is to know that You made us in Your image, creating each of us to be the special and unique person You intend us to be.

Furthermore, You have made special and unique plans for our lives, and have promised us all the help we need to fulfill them.

Let us see clearly the creative gifts You have given us. Show us how to creatively encourage and lift each other up, just as You do for us. Father, bless all of us with that same kind of encouragement! ***Amen***



# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



We give thanks for this wonderful,  
generous community of faith.





## This is My Father's World - UMH 144



This is my Father's world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,  
the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world:  
he shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me everywhere.



# Benediction

*Art by Sue Carroll*