

Christmas Day, December 25, 2023  
Text: Hebrews 1:1-6  
Theme: Leave the Heavy Lifting to God

**Planet Earth is an amazing creation from seas that are over a mile deep to mountains that are 6 miles high. There are symbiotic insects that feed on plants while protecting them from other predators. The planet has the ability to heal itself from almost any insult. We could spend a lifetime trying to understand how it all works and we could never comprehend everything. Science is the systematic process whereby human beings attempt to grasp the complexities of God's gifts to us in this universe. The reason science is constantly evolving is that we are constantly learning more about the properties of this magnificent creation as well as the many potholes that sin has caused in it. Science is our attempt to understand our creator and His creation. But, as always, we are constantly learning and we will all be in paradise long before we understand even a small percentage of it.**

**When I do the children's Sunday School opening, I do not try to explain everything I know about the Bible passages that they are going to be studying that day. I have spent many years studying the Scriptures in their original languages and reading tomes written by men more learned than I to try and grasp all I can grasp about the Holy Scriptures and the truth they tell us about the world and**

**humanity but that is too much for a child to grasp. What I give the children is just one piece of the puzzle. As they come to Sunday School every week for years and years, they will collect many pieces, and as they analyze all of the pieces, they will begin to understand the whole picture and hopefully they will continue throughout their lives adding to those pieces and getting an ever expanding and deeper understanding of God.**

**When I had a Lutheran K-8 school, we would often have new teachers right out of college and a consistent problem they had was over-teaching, particularly in religion. Likewise, as I have mentored new pastors, I have counseled them as I counseled my teachers that you do not have to teach the whole counsel of God in every sermon or every lesson. They'll be back. Here at Trinity, I have been known to tell our teachers in Sunday School, preschool and VBS that while I applaud careful preparation and serious teaching of the Word, I am happy if the children leave knowing that Jesus loves them and that Trinity is a fun and safe place to be. If that is what they know, they'll be back for more.**

**God is too big for anyone to wrap their minds around Him. All we can do is spend our lives gathering pieces of the puzzle and rejoicing as the picture becomes clearer and richer. Today is one of the most important pieces of the puzzle. On Christmas, God revealed**

**His son to us, born of woman and yet completely God. How can that be? That has not been revealed. All we know is that it is. Jesus Christ, God's son, is also man. Our epistle from the book of Hebrews, tells us:**

**"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..." While He is a separate person from the Father, He has the exact imprint of the Father's nature. He is God and man and therefore He can die and be raised from the dead. What's more, because He is God, His death pays for the sins of all people. Whether you are a baptized Lutheran or an avowed atheist, your sins have been paid for by the death and resurrection of God. The difference between someone who is saved and someone who is damned is not that Jesus died for one and not the other but that one has received the gift of faith and the other has rejected it. The price has been paid. The gift has been given to all.**

**If you have received the gift of faith, there is even more to celebrate because not only is your eternal salvation accomplished, but all the pressure of this life is off as well. Why? Because the one who was born this day, who laid down His life and soul for you, also, according to Hebrews, "upholds the universe by the word of his power." Remember what I was saying about science? We are not dependent upon science. Science does not uphold the universe, the**

**Lord Jesus does. Science is what we do, not what God does. Science is our mission to discover the works of the Creator but the Creator is in no way bound to our science and it is His Word that upholds the universe. Global warming? Meteors crashing into earth? Rapant viruses? Nuclear war? They are all the products of sin wreaking violence on God's creation. But none of them are in our control, nor were they meant to be. It is God's Word that upholds the universe and only God's Word. No matter what we learn. No matter how much we accomplish. It is always God's Word that upholds and sustains our every breath. Merry Christmas! All the pressure is off. All we are called to do is to be faithful to God's Word. Leave the heavy lifting of the universe to God.**

**I think that some people want salvation to be more difficult than it is. That is why they reject God's gift. It's just too easy to have all the wrong you have done completely forgiven without any work on your part. It reminds me of fishing. When I was a kid, Colonel Ledbetter, a retired Marine who went to our church, used to take me fishing. The hardest thing for me to do was to put the line in and just wait. I would want to cast it somewhere else, or check my worm or adjust my bobber and the Colonel, sitting under the shade of a tree with his hat over his eyes and a cigar in the corner of his mouth would mutter, "Leave it be. Just let the worm do his job." It**

**seemed too easy to just throw the line in the water and wait for the fish but in all my fussing with the worm and the bobber and the placement of the hook, I was scaring the fish away. Just leave it be and let the worm do his job. If you had known the Colonel, you would have known that that was sort of his motto for life. It was what made him such a fine leader of Marines. Just let the worm do his job.**

**God has promised to do the heavy lifting. That's the best gift we received at Christmas. We don't need to fuss and fume about salvation. Just let God do His job. Tell everyone of God's love for them and let God do the heavy lifting.**

