

“From Chaos to Order”

Genesis 1: 1-2

Sunday July 1, 2018

Back East, there was a woman who wanted to attend a camp in west Texas. Knowing that the camp was rather rustic, she wrote the camp manger a letter. She began the letter as follows: Dear Sir, I am so looking forward to attending your camp. I was wondering if you have a bathroom commode? As she reviewed her letter, she realized that she was uncomfortable with the word bathroom commode. After all, she was a rather prim and proper woman.

Again, she wrote the letter, this time she substituted the letters BC for bathroom commode. After all, everyone will know what that is.

The camp manager read the letter and began to ask those around what they thought was a BC. They were sure that this woman was referring to a Baptist Church.

The camp manger wrote a letter back to this woman reassuring her that they did have a BC. It was only 5 miles down the road. It is a 24-seater. They don't go in the

winter as often as they should. In the spring, we take picnic lunch and make a day of it.

Communication is an essential in every setting. As much as, I am and have been a United Methodist Pastor since 1981, much has changed and much has stayed the same. Every church does things a little different. We often speak in code and make assumptions about what we know and what we understand.

Help me out by understanding that you and I may not have the same assumptions about things or nor the same understandings.

Let us Pray

“In the beginning God created the heavens and earth.” Most of us like to know where our beginnings come from. Whether it is Ancestry.com or 23 and Me, it indicates that there is a great interest in what our DNA can tell us about our origins.

I am waiting for the next special on television to get my DNA checked out. My grandfather did a lot tracing of our genealogy during 98 years of life. It turns out that the Drake name goes all the way back to Sir Francis Drake. My Dad says that Drake was Irish. Maybe that is where I

got my red hair. Oh, you don't see red. When I crossed that bridge of thirty years old, the red started fading fast. Now it is what ever color that Loreal that strikes my fancy.

Our beginnings here in Roswell, date back 1903 when the Presiding Elder, AP Morrison, of the New Mexico District of the Methodist Episcopal Church came to town to investigate whether it was plausible to start a Methodist Church. At the US Land Office, he talked to David Geyer who was Methodist. Mr. Geyer indicated that there were few Methodists in these parts. That did not discourage AP. It didn't take long before a group of Methodists began to gather. There were gather and form a church.

Our beginnings as humans are tired up with God. Elohim was one name that they called God. Elohim created the heavens and the earth says verse one. Verse two tells us that it was formless and void. The Hebrew words here mean that there was chaos. In the Hebrew there are three words that describe this chaos instead of the two that we have in English. In Hebrew when the ancient language repeated something three times, it is like use using a superlative. Holy, holier, holiest.

In the Hebrew there three words right in a row that all mean chaos, emptiness, or darkness. All that means is that there was absolute chaos. In the ancient Hebrew mind, they did not like chaos at all. In fact, the sea, an ocean, or really any significant body of water was seemed as Chaos.

Verse two tells us that the Spirit or Mind of God hovered over the water. God hovered over the waters and would bring order to the chaos.

Friends on mine from the military, had a son who grew up to be a policeman. One day that policeman son, saw somebody who drowning in the ocean. He jumped into save, but he got caught in the under tow. He ended up drowning. Water can be chaotic in the way it moves.

God as the Holy Spirit hovered over the water and began to bring order to the chaos. So too, can God do that in our lives. He can bring order to chaos and pain that our lives experience whether individually or as a group.

Order does not come instantaneously. It comes in time, with prayer, conversation, and the healing power from the Lord. Remember this, God put in our bodies the desire and mechanism to heal. We know from the broken

of this world that the healing process can need some additional help

In John 1: 1 It, too, begins with in the beginning. In an orderly way the Word became flesh and lived amongst human beings. Those early disciples beheld his glory. God was coming into the world He had created to bring new order to people's spiritual lives which would affect how people would live in this world.

You have been through some chaos as well. You have had different people preach and pray here at Trinity. One Sunday the order of service was one way and another Sunday the order of service would be another. There use to be a 9 am service and there is just one 11 am.

Many of you have done a fabulous work in keeping the ship afloat. I am proud of you and all that you have done, including the way that you prepared place for me to come. I understand that there was a lot of work to do the clean up after the renters left. Thank you.

So many wonderful things were done for me from curtains, soap in the bathrooms, towels, food, and unloading my things and putting the beds together, as well as, moving furniture.

It is also chaos for the pastor. I must admit that I get lost even with the GPS. I like to think that I can get around on my own. I have several opportunities to take extensive tours of Roswell.

Oh yes, there is the doctor, the dentist, the nail place, the haircut place.

Where is the library and the bank? Where did I put???

Yet, God desires to bring order to our chaos. He is looking forward to us working together in the Kingdom of God right here in Roswell, right here at Trinity.

I can't wait to see the order, the peace, the excitements, the outreach, and so much more that God is going to do in you, me, and us together.

Praise be to God! Amen!!

Next week, we are going to talk about people being created in the image of God.