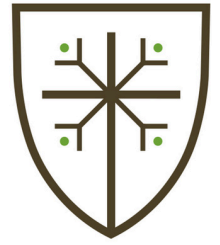


# SERMON NOTES



## New Creations

An Eastertide Sermon Series

artwork by Ty Nathan Clark

May 12, 2024

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"New Life"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

#### TEXTS

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2

Luke 15:11-20

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the world and the culture around us cultivate a culture of separation and estrangement?
2. As Christians, how do we fulfill the role of ministers of reconciliation in our homes, workplaces, schools, etc.?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Brent wrapped up our sermon series on 2 Corinthians with a look at the ministry of reconciliation. In this new creation, ushered in by Christ's death and resurrection, we are being formed with a new default of forgiveness and reconciliation.

#### The Old Way that Must Pass

Sin is the culprit, the reason that our default is set to be separation and estrangement from God and from one another. That's the first thing that Adam and Eve did after they sinned, they ran and hid. Separation left unchecked turns quickly into bitterness, bitterness into resentment, and resentment into grudge holding. The old way embraces separation. But God's default is different. God pursues those separated from him. Ultimately, sin separates us from him and to be separated from God is to be separated from life. God intends for there to be an alternative, a remedy for the separation. Through Christ, God reconciled man to himself. His answer is that in Christ, he takes care of payment for sin, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The basis of reconciliation is forgiveness. He receives our death, we receive our life. Christ reconciles us to God by taking everything that is ours and making it his and everything that is his and making it ours. The hardest part of forgiveness is letting go of the need to exact revenge. God's answer is, "Remember I'm always the offended party. I overcame your sins without destroying you." Refusing to extend forgiveness to others shows you are operating out of the old way. The only way to be free from your anger is to forgive. In the end, even though it looks like there must be death, there is new life.

#### The New Way that Is To Come

The new creature is not just a beneficiary of these things but a minister of them, exploring others to be reconciled. And Brent said, "God's default is reconciliation for us. God's intention is reconciliation in us. And his good pleasure is reconciliation through us." We will only be a new creature when we learn to share in his reconciling work.