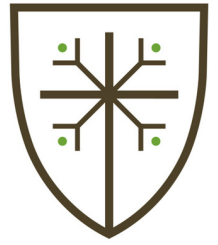


SUMMER PSALMS

An Ordinary Time Sermon Series 2026

SERMON NOTES



July 19, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Majesty and Meaning"

PREACHER

Rev. Will Stockdale

TEXTS

Psalm 8

Colossians 1:15-20

Matthew 7:24-29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what parts of creation have you experienced the wonder and awe of God's majesty?
2. In our culture, we may not worship the stars, but where have we turned created things into manmade gods?
3. What have you been given to steward in your life?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Will continued our sermon series on the Psalms with Psalm 8. This psalm, in just nine verses, asks and answers the immense question, "What is man?" It shows that who we are and how we are made is inextricably linked to what we are to do.

God's Majesty

In the first and last verses of Psalm 8, we see the name "Lord" repeated, once in all caps and once in lowercase -- "O LORD, our Lord." The first signifies God's holy name, summarizing all of his perfection. The second references his rule and reign as king. He is both the great I AM for all the earth and the I AM for us, his people. The psalmist describes his name as majestic, a word that, for us, brings to mind royalty, majesty, authority, and dignity. Sometimes simply saying the name of your beloved communicates more in one word than listing out everything you love about them. The name of the Lord signifies all the qualities of God that demand our worship. There is no corner of the earth where his name is not majestic. Unlike the kings of the earth, our Lord does not need the strong and mighty to show forth his strength. It is proclaimed through little children, through the weak and the powerless. All we bring to God is our need, but in his infinite love and power, he nourishes us into new life.

This same God who loves us in our weakness put into place the sun, the moon, and the stars and all the cosmos. But throughout history, people have made the mistake of worshipping the stars when they look at them. People miss the majesty of God revealed in the heavens and turn them into manmade magic.

Man's Meaning

This is why the question "What is man?" is so widely contested right now. Immense resources are being poured into these areas, and there is great pain and sadness in watching the zeal of the pursuit in the remaking of man. If we do not understand ourselves as made by God and therefore bearing the image of God, we will do all we can to make ourselves apart from him.

The psalmist looks at the cosmos in wonder that, amidst all these things, only man has been called by God to steward creation. It is we who are made in God's image. This making and charge gave meaning to Adam's life in the garden. We have unique capacities and things we can do only because of the relationship that man has with God. We receive meaning for our lives from his majesty. When Adam transgressed the limits set by God, he did so at his own peril and the peril of all mankind. Our dignity as stewards of creation made in God's image and in fellowship with him is what Jesus fought to bring back to us. He is the true fulfillment of Psalm 8. And in the resurrection, all creation is being restored along with man.

What does this mean for us, practically speaking? Remember that your God goes before you. In all you do, he has called you to work and live and do all for his glory. Take stock of what you have been given to steward. What is the wisdom you need to steward those things well? And finally, serve as salt and light. Be a preservation for the world that God is seeking to make new.