



**A Sermon preached in Christ Church, Grosse Pointe, Michigan  
by Meghan vonSchwarz and Henry Chesterton, High School Seniors**

**The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday**

**31 May, 2026**

*In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

Hi everyone, my name is Meghan vonSchwarz. Some of you might recognize me or at least recognize my family but you can always find us in the last row on the left aisle at the 9 am service. Fun fact: We chose that spot strategically because it's the perfect distance for my father to slip in five minutes late without Father Drew noticing...usually.

All jokes aside, we love this parish, and I have loved growing up here and being a member of this church and chorister in this choir for the last 10 years. But now, as Henry Chesterton, who you will hear from next and I are set to graduate, I have come to the realization that it is time to journey on and begin the next chapter in my life.

and during this time. I have been thinking about the word of God and what his words mean to me and in the reading that we heard today there was one verse that really made me think about my life and how I see God in it. in the reading Genesis states, "When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered".

Now in that passage I want to highlight the importance of the word darkness. I think Genesis made the deliberate choice not to use the word emptiness to describe what was happening in that darkness. But from that darkness God chose in his mind to create something that treated the world like a blank canvas that he could control and design. He took the darkness's chaos and produced something beautiful. Now that I am officially an adult, I am realizing that adult life has a lot of chaos. From trying to juggle a job, my friends, and my responsibilities, all while preparing to move 10 hours away to attend the University of the South, I have come to the realization that in a few months, I am leaving the only place and the only people I have ever called home.

That's not to say I'm not excited, but it is putting me in a weird position, as some of you might know when you go out of state to a small college, you are lucky if you can find someone who lives within 30 minutes of your hometown. Realizing that no one will know who I am means I am starting over from scratch.

But it also means I have a completely blank canvas. The people in this room have helped shape the first 18 years of my life, giving me a strong foundation. Now, as I face the chaos of moving away, I



get to take everything I learned here and paint my own future. It's a blank canvas right now, but I am terrified, excited, and entirely ready to make something truly wonderful out of it." thank you.

Now you will hear from my friend Henry Chesterton who has an amazing perspective on the gospel of Matthew and how he relates it to his own story.

Good morning, everyone and thank you Meghan for that wonderful senior sermon. My name is Henry Chesterton, and I will be graduating from Grosse Pointe South this week.

When I first read Genesis 1, I honestly didn't expect to relate it to graduating high school. But the more I thought about it, the more it started to make sense.

This year, Megan and I were in South's production of *Les Misérables* and had the chance to play Javert. Javert loves order, rules, and structure. He believes everything has a place and that life works best when everything stays organized. In a way, I think he would have loved Genesis 1. God takes a world that is chaotic and formless and creates order. He separates light from darkness, land from sea, and fills creation with life. And throughout the story, God looks at what He has made and says, "It is good."

As we read the passage together, we noticed that God says creation "is good" seven times. In the Bible, (from a little "online research" I figured out that) seven represents perfection but here I think it is more about completeness. It's a reminder that God looked at His work and saw that it was whole and purposeful.

As I look back on my high school years, I feel something similar. These years haven't been perfect, but they have been good. I've learned, grown, made mistakes, made memories, and become the person I am today.

One thing I love about Genesis is that God doesn't just create life – He gives it everything it needs to grow. The plants bear seed. The animals multiply. Creation is designed to go on...

When I think about that, I think about my parents. They have spent eighteen years giving me the tools I need for life: faith, values, manners, encouragement, and a lot of patience. They taught me how to work hard, how to treat people with respect, and how to keep going when things get difficult. Those lessons are the seeds they planted in me.

Now I'm heading off to college. I'm excited, but I'll admit it's a little scary too. I'm leaving behind the structure I've always known. That's where I think the reading of Matthew comes in. Jesus tells His disciples, "Go..." "scram... get outta of here" He doesn't tell them to stay where they're comfortable. He sends them out into the world and promises, "I am with you always."



Graduation feels a lot like that. It's my own "go" moment. Jesus taught the disciples. Everything he could at some point They're just gonna have to figure it out with all the tools he gave them. And maybe that's where I differ from Javert. Javert couldn't imagine a world beyond the one he already knew. But graduation is about stepping into something new. It's about trusting the foundation that's been built in us and having the courage to move forward. In that way, it feels a little more like the revolutionaries than Javert – not because I'm starting a rebellion, but because moving on requires a willingness to leave behind what is familiar and take a chance on what comes next.

Today, I'm grateful for the people who helped shape me and for the seeds they've planted in my life. The foundation has been laid. High school has been good. And now it's time to go, trusting that God goes with me wherever the next chapter leads.