

August 11, 2024 - Order of Worship

TIME OF REFLECTION

“God’s ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development. He wants you to grow up spiritually and become like Christ. Becoming like Christ does not mean losing your personality or becoming a mindless clone. God created your uniqueness, so he certainly doesn’t want to destroy it. God uses His Word, people, and circumstances to mold us.”

~Rick Warren, *What on Earth am I Here For?*

“Your core identity is that God chose you. He knew everything about you, yes even what you don’t like to admit to yourself...Jesus is not disillusioned with you, because He never had any illusions about who you were in the first place.”

~Adam Ramsay, Pastor of Liberty Church Australia

“Man became a living being capable of embodying God’s communicable attributes. In his rational life he was like God that he could reason and had intellect, will and emotion. In the moral sense, he was like God because he was at inception good and sinless. Woman was created to meet man’s deficiencies and to be an equal in the job of caretakers of the creation.”

~William Barclay

“Michelangelo was asked how he could make a beautiful sculpture like his ‘Moses’ out of a block of marble. His response was that he simply chipped away everything that wasn’t Moses. We must allow the Lord to chip away everything that is not of Him, or of the person He made us to be.”

~Mgrs Charles Pope, Dean of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC

“Artificial Intelligence’s ultimate accomplishment will be to remind us who we are by revealing what it can’t do. It will compel us to double down on all activities that make us distinctly human: taking care of each other, being a good teammate, reading deeply, exploring daringly, growing spiritually, finding kindred spirits...”

~David Brooks, Op. Ed. In *The New York Times* 8/4/2024

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Protecting Against Identity Theft” – *Jonathan Crane*

SERMON PASSAGE – *selected passages (NIV)*

Genesis 1

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Isaiah 53

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance
that we should desire him.

2 Corinthians 5

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

John 15

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that

bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Ephesians 4

²⁰That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.