

Courtney Godwin:

Good morning.

Congregation:

Good morning.

Courtney Godwin:

Welcome to Morning Prayers of Memorial Church. All who are able, please rise for our responsive reading. Psalm number 62.

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.

Congregation:

He only is my Rock and my salvation, my fortress, I shall not be greatly moved.

Courtney Godwin:

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from Him.

Congregation:

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Courtney Godwin:

On God rests my deliverance and my honor, my right, my mighty rock. My refuge is God.

Congregation:

Trust in Him at all times O people, pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

Courtney Godwin:

Men of low estate are but of breath; men of high estate are a delusion, in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Congregation:

Put no confidence in extortion, set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

Courtney Godwin:

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God.

Congregation:

And that to thee, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For thou dost requite a man according to his work.

Courtney Godwin:

You may be seated.

Choir:

(singing)

Chris Johnson:

Good morning.

Congregation:

Good morning.

Chris Johnson:

In the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, it is written, "And God saw all things that he had made and they were very good." Now, notice that God does not say that he saw what he made and went, "Eh, it's okay, I guess.", or, "Well, good enough." The Bible says that God saw all the things that he made and he thought they were very good. But what we see and hear what's going on in the world today, it's fair to wonder like, really? Very good?

And this makes me think of a story that my father told me when I was about eight years old. My dad died in March 2019. So I've been thinking about him a lot lately, as we're approaching the fourth anniversary of this death. My dad told me about a study that was done by a psychology professor at a university. I think it was actually at Harvard. The study involved putting four young children who were around eight years old, about my age at the time, one at a time, in a room filled, well, at least waist deep, with horse manure, and made them stay in the room for five minutes, and he observed their behavior.

Now, the first child went into the room, stood in the corner, and just started crying. Okay. Second kid went in, and immediately started banging on the door to leave, and he took him out. Third child just stood there, went in, just pinched her nose and covered her eyes. But then the fourth child went in. And the fourth child went in and immediately started squealing with the light. He started tunneling and digging and throwing the manure in the air, laughing the whole time. And after five minutes, the psychologist had to go into the room and take the child out, who was having such a wonderful time, didn't want to leave. So the professor was, well, stunned, and asked the child, "What were you doing in there? What were you thinking?" So the boy dusted the manure off his hair and clothes and said, "Well, I figured with all this poop, there must be a pony in here somewhere, and I'm going to find it."

So as it says, in that first chapter of Genesis, things are very good, but sometimes we need to find the pony, or at least try to look for it. Thanks, Dad.

Courtney Godwin:

For all who are able, please rise for prayer. Let us pray.

Eternal God, in whom we move, and breathe, and have our being, accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. Amen.

Congregation:

Amen.

Courtney Godwin:

Together, let us recite the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying...

Congregation:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Courtney Godwin:

Let us sing the hymn, number 48, Come, My Soul, Thou Must be Waking.

Congregation/Choir:

(singing).

God created this world and called it very good. So let us go into the world and be the good, and look for the good wherever we might find it. Amen.

Congregation:

Amen.