

A Sermon for Robbinsdale United Church of Christ  
May 18, 2008 – Trinity Sunday  
Rev. T. Michael Rock

Sermon Text – Genesis 1:1 – 2:4

Sermon Title – “Creation Continues”

(open with prayer)

You have heard the story of Creation from our Holy Book. Our book of faith proclaims this truth in its very first page. God creates good things. It is the first thing you ought to remember about God, by whatever name you call her. God creates out of nothing. This is the very first statement about the true nature of God. For the next few minutes, I want you to feel in your bones and sinews who God is and who God is not. First, this story is not a scientific understanding of nature. Anyone who argues that the world was created in six days out of a formless void has never watched the time it takes for a flower to sprout, grow and finally blossom. Anyone who pretends that this is about the actual creation has never waited for the tide to come or waited for a snail to appear from its shell. What this story says is that God finds a way to create things. God creates light and life. God is creative. My heaviest textbook in college was not one on theology or religion, but it was Zoology. All the variety in nature and all the beauty of the earth is here in this story. God loves diversity, I love the description. “. . . and every winged bird of every kind . . . and the cattle of every kind . . .” Can't you see God looking down on all the colors of all the animals and all the people and smiling and saying, “This is good.”

In this faith story everything is created to inhabit the world and then “in our image” we create them, male and female, we create them. All of them, every kind, all of them created in the image of God. We look in the mirror and the *Imago Dei* comes to life. We are not God, but we are set forth upon this earth in God's image. What does that say about who we are? It says that we are creators. We are called to do something new. Each of us is given that capacity to create: quilts that keep us warm, music that inspires our dance, a safe space for children to learn, and words that heal and make new. All of us, made in the image of God and called to create, because, fundamentally that is who God is. It means that we not called to maintain, keep still, or repeat over and over again. It means that will do new things, try on new ways of being and keep the energy and excitement moving. It works like nature, not in the blink of an eye, but in a holy and wonderful creative process. The flower needs good soil, water, sunlight, and some care taking to be beautiful again. The flower does not create its beauty alone. We need the foundation of our

faith and our church, we need living water to sustain our growth, we need the warmth of compassion and love so that we will can grow toward love, and we need to realize that sometimes we need to let others take care of us, or we will burn out and be less productive. We are co-creators with God, and we are co-healers with God of this earth and of all our relationships.

You see, in our story, God didn't just create. The image of God didn't stay stagnant. The people needed something else. They prayed and God also delivered them from slavery. They prayed and God gave them food and water and shelter and this tradition that would keep them together, but many years passed and then God had to create something that had not been created before. There were new people in the world and those creative people were traveling over land and water in a new way, God smiled on their wonderful diversity and knew that the story of God's creation needed to apply to more than one race, so God created Jesus, the man who could do miracles in God's name and preach about a world where God set a banquet in which everyone was invited. Jesus came to redeem the world. Jesus came to set the table. God lived in Jesus and by being flesh and subject to this life of love and sacrifice, joy and suffering God lived in us, too. In Jesus, the Incarnate God entered our lives and the lives of our neighbors. The light of the world and the salt of the earth flowed through our blood and the blood of our neighbors. The greatest thing we could create after this point was to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The first two characters of the Trinity are named, therefore, Creation and Love.

When Jesus dies, we learn that love remains. Love never dies, this is our hope and our assurance. Unfortunately, sometimes we forget and act as we ought to be doing something else rather than loving and creating. Sometimes we pretend that we should be defending ourselves and our way of life, sometimes we pretend that there isn't a solution to the problems we face so we give in to the fear that prevents us from creating and loving. God sees this in our lives and even though God has created us in her image and shown us the power of love, we need some other way to get back on track. We need to know that we are not alone, we need to get e-mail updates that we are forgiven and whole, we need the telemarketing phone call at 6pm kick us in the butt and remind us that we are stronger together than we are apart. Our strength is in our community. Our power is in our shared service and love to our neighbor. As people of the Spirit, we round out our experience of being people who create, people who love, and people who are connected.

This is Trinity Sunday, friends, and I know for some the warm weather has you looking forward to a long weekend at the lake, and that we may not see you as much until the hint of frost returns. I want you to take something with you today, because it is wisdoms gift to you. Even when

we are not present in this building, we cannot escape God's call and vision for our life. Every hour of every day, whether we are huddled over a fishing line, tilling the dark brown soil, or singing our familiar songs, we are still called to create and love and remember that we never, ever alone. Our future is about being together, in our laughter and in our tears, in our celebrations and in our disagreements, because we are the image of God, learning how to love, and we are blessed by knowing deep in our souls that we are never alone. AMEN.