

Community of Creation

[Genesis 1:1—2:4a](#)

Days of Creation

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Creation Rap

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Today's Bible Reading

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Additional Bible Readings

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

Matthew 28:16–20

Faithful Creator, we give thanks for your forming, saving, and empowering work in our lives. Shape us for a closer relationship with you and

a meaningful life among our neighbours. Amen.

Genesis 1:1—2:4a likely took shape when the people of Judah lived in exile in Babylon. In response to their captors, who insisted that their rulers held all power, these exiles told a story about their God that insisted otherwise. Genesis 1–2 did not originate as a scientific explanation of how all things came to be. Instead, it emerged as an assertion of the power of God, from whom all things came to be – and in whose hands the past and the future remained.

In Jewish tradition, retelling scripture's story enables listeners to enter that story as if it were ongoing. God's creative activity continues. Our fashioning in the image of God is more than a story of long ago. God has not finished with Creation or with us. We are empowered by our identity as made in the image of God and entrusted with a caring relationship with all Creation.

God blesses both creatures (1:22) and humans (1:28). A key issue in 1:28 involves the meaning of the "dominion" bestowed upon human beings. Many associate dominion exclusively with control. Dominion, however, has a different meaning when heard in the context of the "image of God." God's dominion does not exhibit itself in exploitation but in compassion and responsible care. God entrusts dominion to us as a responsibility, not a licence to abuse.

This narrative of Creation concludes with God blessing the seventh day. We call this blessing Sabbath. Sabbath reminds us that work does not wholly or finally define life. It does not for God. It does not for us. Sabbath bears the gift of rest. Remembering Sabbath celebrates the grace of God.

Genesis 1:1—2:4a forms a liturgy of creating word and faithful response that includes all God created. Imagine this account coming to life. Use your senses to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste life bursting all around you. Proclaim that everything, in the words of God, is good.

In a liturgical celebration of praise for God's Creation, the writer of **Psalm 8** reflects on the meaning of human beings made in God's image, evoking with Genesis a consideration of the relationship between dominion and caretaking.