

Why is it unique that we get to see God (in Jesus)?

- + What faith questions does it bring to mind?

Where else in scripture are there poetic verses like this about Jesus?

- + *Think: Philippians 2*

Paul writes about the theme of reconciliation in his letters, as it pertains to Jesus reconciling us to God. What does he mean by this? How does it relate to what occurred in Holy Week/Easter?

GROWTH:

JOURNAL PROMPT

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

CALLING PROMPT

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God's presence this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let's prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for being with us during our gathering as a community today. May we strive to grow in faith both individually and together. We ask that you bless this time of learning and fellowship, as we read Colossians.

COMMUNITY

Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!

- + What specific point resonated with you from the weekend's sermon?
- + If you couldn't attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at <https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/>)
- + Where did you see God's presence in your past weekend?

VIDEO – WEEK 3
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES

SCRIPTURE

A great starting place is always in God’s word. This week we are in:

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

¹⁵ *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ **For in him all things were created:** things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.** ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his **fullness dwell in him,** ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

²¹ *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ **if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.***

SITUATION

One of the most famous passages in scripture is found in Colossians 1:15-20, often called a Christ Hymn! This beautiful description of the supremacy of God is written in such a way that resonates with the heart and remains in the memory. The pattern of this type of writing is reminiscent of early church “hymn” or “creedal” patterned content.

In scripture, God reveals the identity of the Son, Jesus. We learn that he is an equal person in the Trinity to the Father and the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Godhead are present at the beginning of time, which is why Paul emphasizes that Jesus Christ is in whom all the things of the world come together (v. 16). In fact, the specialness of the Son, is that in him we get to see God! This is so powerful. We are visual creatures and many of us can struggle at times with the correlation between faith and sight. This is why it is amazing that in Jesus we don’t just have “some” image of God, we have “THE” image of God! You don’t need other images to see God, just Jesus. Paul focuses a great deal on the joy of seeing the fullness of God revealed in Christ and this becomes a central theme to the whole letter of Colossians.

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever heard this section (a Christ Hymn) of scripture (vv.15-23) before? If so, when? Where?

What stands out to you the most about the way Jesus is described?

- + What is comforting?

- + What is startling?

- + What is confusing?