

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Lord's Day, January 24, 2016

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. ...Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever... (Psalm 146:1,2,6)

[* indicates standing]

Prelude: [Welcome, Announcements]

Preparation for Worship: Psalter-Hymnal #307 (all)

***The Call to Worship** (see above)

***Confession of our need for God's grace** (Psalm 124:8):

"Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth"

***God's Greeting to His People**

***Psalm of Response** Psalter-Hymnal #301 (1,2,4)

***Opening Prayer**

God's Law Exodus 20:1-17

Prayer of Confession and Praise

(God's assurance of pardon: 1John 1:9)

***Psalm of Praise** Psalter-Hymnal #446 (1,2,3)

Confession of Faith (see bulletin)

Prayer of Requests with Thanksgiving

***Song of Preparation** Psalter-Hymnal #75 (1,4)

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6

Sermon (Rev. Beukema): **Hebrews 11:3**

***Respond in Song** Psalter-Hymnal #51 (1,2,3)

***Benediction (God's parting Word of blessing)**

***(Moment of Silent Meditation)**

Sermon: **Hebrews 11:3**

TITLE: *By faith: creation.*

We see:

1. What faith affirms God did.
2. How faith affirms God did it.

For discussion time (after eating)—power point presentation #3

CALENDAR

- Sundays: 10:00 AM—Worship Service.
- Sundays: after worship—Informal fellowship in food, singing, prayer, discussion and study.
- Wednesday's (5:45 PM at school)—Catechism/**Profession of faith** classes
- **Pizza & Theology**—Last **Friday** of month; at school, **6: 30-8:30 PM** ["Theology" is about discussing biblical truth for all of faith and life]

PRAYER REQUESTS

BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER: *(Let us know your requests for prayer!)*
"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6)

- Pray for our country and government.
- Pray for persecuted church in the world; severe trials in Nepal.

Pray for King's: (SermonAudio, website, Good News Bible Study)

- **Profession of faith class this Wednesday.**
- **Pizza & Theology this Friday.**
- Salvation of loved ones and others we know.
- The Lord's blessing on joyful tithing/giving (in box on table).
- God's blessing in our work, and all we do, as service to Him.
- Families raising children (to know God's blessing and grace to persevere).
- Burrell's school (wisdom in administration; enrollment).
- Hicks (as members who are away from us).
- Strelecki's ask prayer for protection from enemies (in condo situation) and grace to do God's will and be witnesses to glorify Him.
- **HEALTH:** Pastor Donnan's sister Jeanne (rehabilitation from stroke). Pastor Donnan (eyes, heart, diabetes). Gloria Donnan (Alzheimer's). Pastor Poettcker's sister-in-law Helen (deteriorating from brain tumor).

Pray for Regional Presbytery and sister churches and their needs.

- Ministry of CRPC churches: Suriname (Rev. Hamid); Des Moines, Iowa (Rev. Waters; seeking pastoral help; Terry Welch treatment for cancer; Ron Short serious heart issue/surgery). Rev. Gibson (pastoral calling).
- Modolo's in Italy (direction; encouragement).

Pray for King's mission work through Reformation Christian Ministries:

- Outreach of the Bible courses and educational courses.
- Presbyterian pastor in Uzbekistan (facing forms of persecution)
- Course production for the M.Div. program.
- God's provision for needs for RCM and RCM personnel.

The church is called to be a confessing church, that she may be,
the pillar and ground of the truth (1Tim. 3:15,16)

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 4—Of Creation

WCF 4.1 It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,(1) for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness,(2) in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.(3)

(1)Heb. 1:2; John 1:2,3; Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; Job 33:4.

(2)Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:12; Ps. 104:24; Ps. 33:5,6.

(3)Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16; Acts 17:24.

WCF 4.2 After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female,(1) with reasonable and immortal souls,(2) endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image,(3) having the law of God written in their hearts,(4) and power to fulfill it;(5) and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change.(6) Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil;(7) which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.(8)

(1)Gen. 1:27. (2)Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 12:7; Luke 23:43; Matt. 10:28.

(3)Gen. 1:26; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24. (4)Rom. 2:14,15. (5)Eccl. 7:29.

(6)Gen. 3:6; Eccl. 7:29. (7)Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:8,9,10,11,23. (8)Gen. 1:26,28.

THE KING'S REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<http://www.krpc.us>

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/krpc>

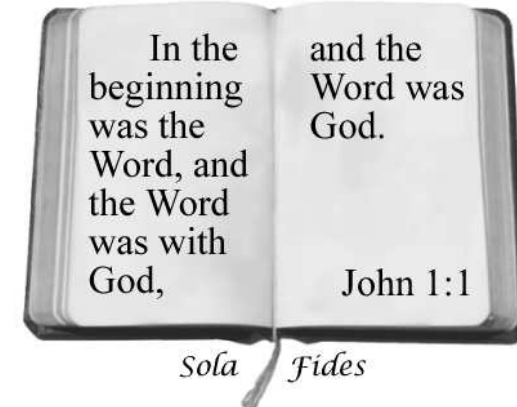
Member Church of the
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

<http://www.covref.org>

**Sunday Morning Worship Services held at
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Sola Gratia Sola Scriptura



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**Worship Service: Sundays 10:00 A.M.
Lord's Day, January 24, 2016**

TRANSCRIPT

Rev. Barry Beukema, 16-01-24, Heb 11:3, By Faith – Creation

It's a real privilege to be with you all this morning. And as Rev. Poettcker mentioned in the prayer about our unity with our fellow brothers and sisters throughout the world, I know pretty well that the King's Reformed Presbyterian Church is being mentioned in prayer in Lacombe, Alberta, as they read the bulletin there and my involvement here. I'm reminded of the oneness that we have in the faith, because you people here, brothers and sisters here, and in that were too I want to extend greetings from your brothers and sisters up in Alberta, Canada, a little town called Lacombe.

Well, I want to invite you to turn with me to Heb 11. First of all we will ask the Lord for his blessing upon what we are about to read there. Let's pray.

**** prayer ****

Hebrews chapter 11, we'll be reading the first six verses, and the text will be verse 3. Hear now God's holy and infallible Word.

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Thus far.

And our text, verse 3, "3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Well, brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ, big bang or big God? Which of these two are you going to believe in? The theory that ten to twenty billion years ago the universe, including life and all of its magnificent and divergent forms created itself through a cosmic explosion, or that only a few thousand years ago it was created by God who commanded it into existence by the Word of his mouth. It's one or the other, for rejecting what God himself tells us in the Bible the big bang is the only real answer that the unbelieving world at large is holding out to us. So which is it? And how with this make any difference in the way that you live your life? For, depending on which alternative you believe, your life will surely show it.

As our text tells us, it is only by faith that you can understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is now seen was not made out of what was visible. Only by faith are we able to apprehend things which are high above the realm of human reason, not contrary to reason, but beyond it. For truly, as A.W. Pink has said, "The origin of the universe presents a problem which neither science nor philosophy can solve, as is evident from their conflicting and ridiculous attempts, the big bang theory being the most popular of them, but which difficulty vanishes entirely before faith." For faith is the vehicle or means of spiritual perception, of being able to see things right. And that, of course, is the whole point of Heb 11. That's why it says, for example, that Moses by faith saw Him who was invisible. Or faith is not a blind reliance on the Word of God, but as Pink rightly says, "an intelligent persuasion of its truth, of its wisdom, and of its beauty." As he says, Christians are not credulous, i.e., gullible, naïve fools, as the world thinks, but the wisest of the world's inhabitants. On the contrary, as Psa 14 and as Psa 53 says, it's the fool who says in his heart, There is no God. Thus it's by faith in what has been revealed in Scripture that we understand that the universe was formed at God's command.

So what we need to consider this morning are these two things, these two points. What faith affirms God did, and secondly, how faith affirms God did it. First of all, what faith affirms God did, and secondly, how faith affirms God did it.

First of all, faith affirms what God did, and that is that God made heaven and earth, everything thing, in fact, out of nothing. This is what our text means when it says that the universe was formed at God's

command so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. It means that that which is seen and has being came forth from what was not seen, and that had no being, i.e., it all came forth from nothing. And again and again this is what the Bible says, for in Gen 1 we read no less than eight times that God said and so it was. In Psa 33:9 we read that it was the triune God who did this, the Father who buy his Word, the Son, and by his breath, the Holy Spirit, spoke it all into existence, for it says, “By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth... for he spoke and it came to be, he commanded and it stood firm.” Only the almighty, infinite, incomprehensible power of God could do this, the God, who as Rom 4:17 says, “Calls things that are not as though they were,” the God who says in Exo 20:11 (by the way, *exactly* what the Westminster Confession of Faith says) literally in the space of “six days God made heaven and earth and everything in them.” And it’s only through faith in God’s Word that we know this to be true.

As the great Reformation principle *sola scriptura*, Scripture alone, asserts, it’s only by the Scriptures, the Bible, that we truly know anything at all, because no matter what subject it addresses it doesn’t give us mere theory, but fact, as the infallible Word of the God who does not lie. And this is especially true of the big question of origins, of how everything got here – when it happened, why we are here, and what that means for all of our living. No one but God was there at the beginning, and we have nothing other than his eyewitness account. As God says to Job, in Job 38:4 & 5, “Were you there when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!” Wise man that he was, Job puts his hand over his mouth. What God reveals to us in Gen 1 & 2 is profound. And yet it’s so clear, straightforward, and simple that even a child can understand it.

And yet, let alone the unbelieving world, we find so many people in the church, and even worse, many Christian leaders who cannot accept what God says there, and are unwilling to take a position as to how we should even understand it. As John MacArthur so rightly asks of such people, of a book called *Genesis, Beginnings*, which from beginning to end presents itself clearly as straightforward historical narrative, not poetry, not allegory, but as literal history – or people may accept that, of course, Jacob existed, Joseph existed, Isaac, Abraham – and as this church

leader says, At what point do you kick in? At what point is it literal history? as it presents itself.

Listen, there is no need for you and I, or anyone else, to edit God. We don’t have to bring science into it to be intellectually honest with what it says, as many people are telling us today. We don’t have to support it with science to make it acceptable. But the fact is science can make no contribution to our understanding of the actual event of creation. Yes, science can show, and does show that what we see all around us is absolutely consistent with what Scripture tells us about the Creator and our creation. If that weren’t true I wouldn’t be promoting the work of Creation Science or agreeing to hold confessions or conferences on the gospel and evolution, dinosaurs, and the age of the earth, the scientific as well as biblical reasons in defense of our Christian faith, and of our world and life view. Science has shown, with anybody who’s honest, that evolution is impossible. But there will never be any way that anyone will ever be able to explain creation by science. That’s because creation, creation *ex nihilo*, creation out of nothing was not a natural event or a series of natural events that can be explained by science. Rather, it was a brief series of monumental, supernatural events beyond the pale of science. For real science as applied to mere conjecture, guesswork, or hypotheses relies upon observation and experimentation. But only God observed creation, no one else. And therefore because it cannot be repeated and observed, it cannot be verified or refuted by the scientific method. Moreover, the very nature of divine creation, everything out of nothing, means that it did not happen according to any fixed natural laws, by any uniform predictable and repeatable open to scientific inquiry. It involved no natural processes for it was a series, supernatural, instantaneous, inexplicable, indeed incomprehensible, miraculous works that has never on this same scale happened since.

This limitation of science is not just true of the great miracle of creation, of course, but it’s true of all of God’s miracles. For example, if you had met Lazarus after Jesus raised him from the dead, if you watched him, if you sat down and talked with him and observed all that he did, you could observe him forever and it could tell you nothing about how it was that Jesus raised him from the dead, only that right now he is very much alive. Likewise, you could taste and you could analyze the wine made miraculously by Jesus out of water at the wedding of Cana. You could subject it to the most rigorous chemical analyses ever, and it could tell you nothing of how that wine was instantaneously made from water

by Jesus. And on and on we could go because that's just the nature of miracles.

And that is why when it comes to the big question of how the universe was formed, how we got here, and what, if any, is the purpose and significance of our lives, it will always come down to faith, not science. Whether it's faith in the big bang and its evolutionary materialistic chance random explanation of how the world around, how we got here, or faith in the God who was there, the God who made the world, and after we fell into sin, who loved the world, and so loved that world that he gave his only begotten Son for sinners such as you and I, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. You need to understand what we're facing today is not, as we're so often told, a choice between faith or science. What is before us is a choice between one religion or another, between the truth or the lie, with eternal consequences, either glorious or horrendous, depending on which one you believe. Either way you must put your hope in a cause for all that there is that defies sensory experience, and is therefore outside the realm of science.

The Bible says, "In the beginning God...." The big bang evolutionists say, "In the beginning material...." Now, it would seem self-evident that mindless material cannot account for the apparent design found in all of life and in the complicated information systems found in every cell of our bodies. Not to mention the fact that the second law of thermodynamics proves that matter never of itself goes from a state of disorder to order, that big bangs, whether in time past or today do not produce anything that we see today, whether a big bang in space producing the world, or a big bang in a brick factory producing a beautiful library all filled with books and in order. Or, as maybe you've heard before, a big bang in a junk yard producing a fully functional 747. We know that that doesn't happen; it's against science. But technically you cannot prove scientifically one or the other.

Therefore for both, creationist and evolutionist, it's a matter of faith. And many prominent evolutionists have been honest enough to admit this. The other night I quoted British biologist L. Harrison Matthews who writes in the forward to the 1971 issue of Darwin's *Origin of Species*. "Evolution," he says, "is an unproved theory." Is it, then," he asks, "a science of a faith?" Then he says, "Belief in the theory of evolution is exactly parallel to belief in special creation. Both are

concepts which believers know to be true, but neither up the present has been capable of proof." Yes, a religion. This is why J. Dunphy wrote in *The Humanist* back in 1983 that they must proselytize their faith in godless evolution in the public schools, stating that (quote), "The battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new religion, a new faith, a religion of humanity that recognizes what theologians call God in every human being."

Why is evolution popularly accepted? Well, it's not, as atheist evolutionist D.M.S. Watson says, because it can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative, he says, special creation, is clearly incredible, by which he means unacceptable. More recently, as I also quoted the other night, on TV it was Sir Julian Huxley, one-time president of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization, and the premier evolutionist at that time, was asked, Why evolution caught on so quickly? His answer: Because it's so scientific? No, not at all! Because the idea of God, he said, interfered with our sexual mores. In other words, because we want to have sex with whomever and however we want. That's why we accept evolution. In 2004, no less than thirty-three prominent scientists wrote in the prestigious scientific journal, *New Scientist*, that the big bang is scientifically bankrupt, being based (quote) "on a growing number of hypothetical entities, fudge factors, and such a gap between theory and observation that should at least raise serious questions about the validity of the underlying theory." What's more, they write, "that anyone who dares to oppose the secularly accepted big bang theory are not tolerated, and have every reason to fear that saying so will cost them their funding," in other words, their jobs.

You see what the implications are here. This is what drives evolution. If the universe created itself, then you are your own master. It means that, then, you are free to call your own shots, you are sovereign over your own life, and you are free to make all the decisions of your life according to your own selfish and self-centered will. But if God is the Creator, if he is the one who made you, then it means he is your Master, whose law you are called to obey, to whom you are accountable, and from whom you've come to expect, and ought to expect every good thing. And that's why it's by faith, by a faith that not only confesses that what God says is true, but that actually lives by what God has revealed and promised us in Jesus Christ. And it's by that faith that we

understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

That, first of all, is what faith affirms God did.

And secondly, much more briefly, but just as importantly, our text tells us how faith affirms God did it. And that is that by faith we understand that the universe was formed how? At God's command. Here the words *are formed* means *to render complete*, which along with the rest of the verse precludes or makes impossible any idea of further evolutionary development, for *formed* or *framed*, as our New King James Version puts it, means *according to the design* that God gave it, that there would be no kind therefore turning later into another kind. Of course, there is variation within a kind, natural selection, and in terms of the environment, even if you want to call it this, survival of the fittest, none of which has anything to do with evolution, for there is no possibility, as even biology and genetics shows us (as I hope to show later today) of any kind turning into another kind. But the point of our passage here is this: It was by God's Word that all of this came to be – all from nothing.

And thus the practical force of this verse for us is this: Our faith does not rest on what appears outwardly, what is presently visible to us, for at one time the entire universe was not visible either, but as all of it was brought about by nothing else than the bare Word of God. So faith, the faith by which we actually live, can be and is satisfied, contrary to all appearances, in nothing more than the promises of God's Word, the promises that are ours in Jesus Christ. For since God created the universe out of nothing, how easily, likewise, can he provide all that we need when at present there may be nothing in sight! We may have great needs of this kind or that kind, and concerns about that, but we don't base our life and our decisions on those things, but on God's promises. For he who could call the universe into existence by the Word of his power can surely, as Phi 4:19 says, "meet all of your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." And thus faith, as Pro 3:5 & 6 says, "enables us to trust in the Lord with all of our heart, and to lean not on our own understanding, but in all our ways to acknowledge him, trusting that he will make our paths straight." So we can trust him regarding our work, or presently out of work, or have difficulties in our work, or wonder about and have concerns about it. For a young person, What about our future spouse? How is He going to lead me to the right

person, a godly husband or wife? Our families, and the needs of our families. Perhaps a great sickness. Even those we prayed about this morning. And concerns, health concerns. Anything else regarding our future we can trust him who calls things that are not as though they were. As Abraham did almost a hundred years old, his whole eternity, his life, depended upon a child that was nowhere in sight. Yet God simply says, "Walk before me and be blameless." Trust me. God brought about out of nothing, out of death, what he promised. Faith trusts him to do this, because he is no one less than the Creator of heaven and earth.

And therefore faith obeys him, and lives by the promises of his Word, knowing that whatever we see, or fail to see, he will bring into existence. Of course, this is true of the whole Christian life, isn't it? We struggle with sin. We see our sins. The devil comes. He wants us to doubt. Are you even a child of God? How can it be? By faith we recognize we are clothed with the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ who bore our sins on the cross. We live in a sinful world. As Isaiah says, We are are people of sinful lips, unclean lips, and dwell among a people of unclean lips. It's so easy to get wrapped up in the world. But by faith we recognize that we are citizens of heaven. So we seek the things above, not the things below. We suffer, and we are tempted to despair. By faith, the apostle tells us, we're to recognize that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Unbelief and its unbelievers cannot accept this, and so they live for the here and now. They live only in terms of what they see and what serves their selfish sinful desires. But faith understand the power of God's Word to bring about what it says. Thus like the world before God created it, invisible to any eye, so though invisible now, faith sees the fulfillment of all that God has promised us, including the world that is to come. And so we don't live as people who belong to this present world which is passing away, but as citizens of the world to come, a world which, by the way, will come to pass in far less than six literal days, with a roar, as 2Peter says, with a great noise. In other words, with a big bang then. For as 2Pe 3:13 says, "but in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with God."

Brothers and sisters, if faith is at work in you, you will show yourselves as citizens not of this world, but of the world to come. You will walk

not by what is seen but by what is unseen, promised us in God's Word. You won't live in conformity with this present world, but with heaven. You will live by faith, not by sight. And you will do this because you trust in him who out of nothing made heaven and earth and everything in them. Amen. Let's pray.