



FRESH AIR



2022 SERMON SERIES



2022 Sermon Series

Fresh Air: Renewal in God's Creation & Kingdom

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground (Ps 104:30)

The World is catching some *fresh air* as countries begin to emerge from the pandemic. Throughout the crisis, we were all stunned by how fragile life can be – even the smallest of germs can bring havoc to modern science and to the social structures that many of our contemporaries take pride in. We were awakened to pray to God for *life*, who is not only our Saviour but our Creator. It is “the Spirit¹ of God has made me, and the *breath* of the Almighty gives me *life*.” (Job 33:4). We become aware that creation is the foundation of the gospel, a fact made clear by both the first and the last books of the Bible: “Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an *eternal gospel* to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory... and worship him *who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water*.” (Rev. 14:6-7). Jesus Christ was in fact the Creator long before he became the Saviour, “for by him all things were created” (Col. 1:16). This year’s sermon series is designed to help us reflect on Christ as *both* Creator and Redeemer, as we look to him for “fresh air” in both our physical and spiritual life when we, our church and our world emerge from the pandemic. As such, we must not forget the dual Great Commandment and Commission that the Triune God places on our shoulders:

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” (Matt. 28:19)

¹ In Hebrew, the same word, *ruach*, is used for air, or wind, or spirit, or Spirit.

Sermon Series: **Genesis: Origins and Foundations**



The first 12 chapters of Genesis span at least 2,000 years of human history, and possibly much more. They are the story of origins, beginnings and foundations, and as such they are fundamental to our understanding of the rest of the redemption story in the Bible. They introduce us to the origins of sin, and to God's response to sin in both judgment and grace. They are key to understanding many fundamental questions that moderns ask about existence (e.g., "Who am I?"), society (e.g., "What is my responsibility towards creation?") and theology (e.g., "What is God doing about the state of the world today?").

2022-01-02	Creation I: the Natural World*	Gen. 1:1-1:25
2022-01-09	Creation II: Rest	Gen. 1:26-2:3
2022-01-16	Creation III: Adam and Eve	Gen. 2:4-25
2022-01-23	The Fall: Exile from Eden	Gen. 3:1-24
2022-01-30	The Fall: Cain and Abel	Gen. 4:1-26
2022-02-06	Special Sunday: Chinese New Year Celebration / Anniversary	<i>to be specified by speaker</i>
2022-02-13	The Fall: Generations of Adam	Gen. 5:1-32
2022-02-20	The Fall: Nephilim	Gen. 6:1-12
2022-02-27	Judgment and Redemption I: Noah's Ark	Gen. 6:9-7:5
2022-03-06	Judgment and Redemption II: The Flood	Gen. 7:6-24
2022-03-13	Judgment and Redemption III: A New Beginning	Gen. 8:1-22
2022-03-20	Judgment and Redemption IV: A New Promise	Gen. 9:1-17
2022-03-27	Sin Re-enters I: Generations of Noah (Mother's Day)	Gen. 9:18-10:32

2022-04-03	Sin Re-enters II: Tower of Babel	Gen. 11:1-32
2022-04-10	Redemption: The Call of Abram	Gen. 12:1-9

*Note: all these titles are tentative *for preachers' use only*; chairpersons should consult with the preacher in order to obtain the actual sermon title for the week.



Sermon Series: **Jesus, God's answer to You**

We live in a world ravaged by evil. In the face of death, danger, lies, false hopes in the world, and hunger in the heart, are you looking for some answers? Are you looking for a way out? Do you know someone who is also seeking? We are not without hope. Jesus is God's answer to the world. The seven 'I am' Jesus proclaims in the Gospel of John, revealing his identity and his work, invites us to come to him and follow him. Do you want to know and follow Jesus to find the answer to life? Would you like to help those around you know and follow Jesus to find the answer to life?

2022-04-17	Is it You Who Mourn?* (Easter Sunday)	John 11:25 (<i>full text: John 11</i>)
2022-04-24	Is it You Who is Hungry and Thirsty?	John 6:35 (<i>full text: John 6:24-59</i>)
2022-05-01	Is it You Who is Spiritually Blind?	John 8:12 & 9:5 (<i>full text: John 9</i>)
2022-05-08	Is it You Who is Looking for Security?	John 10:7 & 10:10 (<i>full text: John 10:1-18</i>)
2022-05-15	Is it You Who is Looking for the Way?	John 14:6 (<i>full text: John 14:1-14</i>)
2022-05-22	Is it You Who is Seeking to Bear Fruit?	John 15:5 (<i>full text: John 15:1-8</i>)

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Sermon Series: **Fresh Start of God’s Rebuilding Project**

Why is life so hard, so tough and so cold? These were some of the questions asked. After years of exile in a foreign land, there was a glimmer of hope when the Israelites to return to their homeland. The returnees were busily engaged in their rebuilding their homes, their communities and lives, bringing hopes of a better life, a sense of belonging. Their dreams were shattered by the harsh reality, the harvest was sparse and life was hard. The fortunate few were doing well, probably at the expense of the less privileged and poor. Into this coldness of life, God stirred up and fired up the hearts of His servants, leaders and people, the prophet Haggai called for the rebuilding project of the Holy Temple. What is God calling us to rebuild in this age and time? And what is your response to this call?



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2022-05-29	Material Desolation Leads to Spiritual Mission*	Haggai 1:1-15
2022-06-05	Spiritual Rebuilding Leads to Greater Glory (Pentecost)	Haggai 2:1-9
2022-06-12	Spiritual Purity Leads to Many Blessings	Haggai 2:10-19
2022-06-19	Special Sunday: TNG Sunday / Father’s Day	<i>to be specified by speaker</i>
2022-06-26	Spiritual Responsibility Leads to Victory and Honour	Haggai 2:20-23

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Sermon Series: **Fresh Missional Hope from Death to Life**



After the first wave of invasion by Babylon, Ezekiel was amongst the first batch of people taken into exile. Settled by the river of Babylon, reminiscing the past and regretting over the helplessness and hopelessness of the present and future. After a series of vi-

sion and parables of judgement and destruction, there is always hope in God. But who can bring hope to the desperate situation? And what is the purpose of this hope?

2022-07-03	False and True Shepherd (Messianic King)*	Ezekiel 34:1-4, 11-16
2022-07-10	Profanity Transformed by New Heart and Spirit (True Repentance)	Ezekiel 36:22-31
2022-07-17	Mission of Eden Restored (God’s Name Proclaimed)	Ezekiel 36:32-38
2022-07-24	Mission of Re-creation Restored (Be Known by His People)	Ezekiel 37:1-14
2022-07-31	Mission of Relationship Restored (Be Known by Nations)	Ezekiel 37:15-28

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Sermon Series: **Fresh Start Case Studies – Restart Life**

We are not as beautiful as we seem. In fact, we are often weak; we stumble, and even mess up. In our failure and weakness, people may give up on us, we may even give up on ourselves, but Jesus has not given up on us. He sees that in his grace we can start over, and in his grace, we can have a bright future. He approaches us who are weak and wrong, rescues us, picks us up, and gives us a new beginning. This sermon series will feature four biblical characters who met Jesus and restarted their lives. May their stories with Jesus also inspire us to stand up again in Christ for a bright future.



2022-08-07	Goodbye to the Past*	John 8:1-11
2022-08-14	Brand New Life	Mark 5:1-20
2022-08-21	Reverse Direction	Acts 26:9-18

2022-08-28

A Fresh Restart

John 21:15-19

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Sermon Series: **All Sufficient Christ: Creator & Redeemer Over All**

A “philosophy” (2:8) was apparently threatening the community in Colossae, causing enough concerns for Paul to write this letter. If left unchecked, the “philosophy” could subvert the sufficiency of Christ and his gospel, and leave the Colossians in spiritual “bondage”. Our world is not very dissimilar to theirs – we also face opposition that belittles the supremacy of Jesus Christ, and many Christians in the West are left with significant doubts of their faith. In our pluralistic world, Christianity, many argue, must learn to accommodate, and must purge itself of any exclusive claims and monopoly of truth. In this letter, however, Paul establishes the “finality, adequacy and all-sufficiency of the cosmic Christ – by whom and for whom all things were made, in whom they cohere, and with whom in God the life of the Christian and of the Church is hidden.” Long before Jesus Christ became the Saviour, He was the Creator (Col. 1:16). It is because of Christ’s supremacy of all things that future hope of renewal of human and creation alike find its abiding value and confidence: “through him [Christ] to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Col. 1:20).

2022-09-04	Prayer for Growth and Renewal*	Col. 1:1-12
2022-09-11	Special Sunday: Mid-Autumn Festival	<i>to be specified by speaker</i>
2022-09-18	Priority and Preeminence of Christ	Col. 1:13-23
2022-09-25	Paul's Ministry Priority	Col. 1:24-2:5
2022-10-02	Philosophies and Human Rules that Distract	Col. 2:6-23
2022-10-09	Putting Off and Putting On	Col. 3:1-17

2022-10-16	Preeminence of Christ Put in Practice I: Daily Life	Col. 3:18-4:1
2022-10-23	Preeminence of Christ Put in Practice II: Christian Service	Col. 4:2-18

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Sermon Series: **Fresh Start Case Studies – Renew Relations**



Philemon is a Gentile believer in Colossae and is a leader of the house church (Phm. 1:1; cf. Col. 4:9). Onesimus was a runaway household slave who is being returned to Philemon by Paul, and is travelling together with Tychicus who carries the letter to the Colossians from Paul (Col. 4:7-9), and possibly the letter to Philemon as well. One of the purposes of the letter to the Colossians is therefore to prepare the church to receive Onesimus back into the community. Philemon, on the other hand, is a highly personal letter to Philemon about receiving his runaway slave back to his household. It deals with a delicate private matter with “explosive social consequences,” and is a classic case study on how personal relationships can be restored and renewed by the reconciliatory work of Jesus Christ, of the subsequent impact to the community, and to worldly customs and values.

2022-10-30	Preeminence of Christ Put in Practice III: Christian Relations*	Phm. 1-25
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Sermon Series: **Special Mission Series** (from 2022-11-6 to 2022-11-27)

Sermon Series: **Resurrection and Re-Creation**



This sermon series rounds off the themes of 2022 (which started with and God’s covenantal call of Abraham) by focusing on Resurrection going to abandon his people and his creation. The theme of the Bible is and re-creation of the whole world, together with its inhabitants, and the entire cosmos. N.T. Wright puts it this way, “The destiny of individual human beings must be understood within that context... in the sense that part of the whole point of being saved in the present is so that we can play a vital role within that larger picture and purpose.” That’s why Paul’s immediate exhortation after explaining what the resurrection is really about is this: “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:58). “That is the logic of the mission of God. God’s recreation of his wonderful world, which began with the resurrection of Jesus and continues mysteriously as God’s people live in the risen Christ and in the power of his Spirit, means that what we do in Christ and by the Spirit in the present is not wasted.”

the Creation story, the Fall and Re-Creation. God is *not* ultimately God’s story of rescue

2022-12-04	The Certainty of a Physical Resurrection / Re-creation*	1Cor. 15:1-28
2022-12-11	The Characteristics of a Physical Resurrection / Re-creation	1Cor. 15:35-50

2022-12-18

The Creation Re-created

Rom. 8:18-30

2022-12-25

Special Sunday: Christmas Celebration

to be specified by speaker

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