

Sermon Title: First This: Loving Care

Text: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1. Did you grow up hearing the Biblical creation account? What do you remember about how you heard it? Who taught it to you? Were there aspects of the story that caught your attention or puzzled you as you heard it? Were there others in your circle of friends or teachers who came from a different tradition and shared their own creation story with you?
2. Is understanding how the universe was created important to you? Why or why not?
3. Did hearing the creation story in a different translation and considering it as poetry change your perspective in any way or help you to reconcile the different ways people think about creation?
4. Did you gain any new insights by considering the creation story through the lens of loving care and how balance, order and transformation illuminate God's nature? Has this challenged you to think about God, the universe, humankind or the Earth in a different way?
5. What do you make of the debate over the Biblical creation story and what science has contributed to your perspective of how the universe came to be? How can we as Christians contribute to the debate in a healthy, life-affirming way?