

# God Is Our Creator

*Sermon Preached by the Rev. Robert A. Arbogast  
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## Scripture Reading

Psalm 19

## Sermon

Kim Jong-Un has a nuclear button on his desk. He can launch a missile that would destroy an American city. That's what he says. Donald Trump has a bigger nuclear button on his desk. He can launch a barrage of nuclear missiles. That's what he says.

But here's the question. How do you suppose God reacts to that kind of bluster from puny little human beings? I have an idea about that, about how God reacts. It's from Psalm 2. "The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them." (Psalm 2:4) Because there is only one God and there is only one Lord and there is only one Ruler of heaven and earth. And it isn't Kim Jong-Un. And it isn't Donald Trump. It isn't any puny little human being.

**It's the same old story.** It goes all the way back to the beginning. And it happens over and over again. Puny little human beings puff themselves up. They think they're hot stuff. So they ignore God. They don't need God. Instead they make their own gods, gods like money and sex and power. Or they make themselves gods. They act like masters of the universe. And they try to rule the world with baseball bats and with Glocks and with nuclear missiles.

But no puny little human being is master of the universe. The universe is millions and billions and trillions of stars and solar systems and galaxies. Compared to all that, our little blue earth is less than a speck. But we puny little human beings can't even master that much. Not that we don't try. We do try. We build houses and cities and civilizations. But we also destroy. We destroy families and fields and forests.

So we do have power, power to build and to destroy. But that power is puny, puny compared to the power of the earth, puny compared to the power of wind and waves, puny compared to the power of volcanoes and earthquakes. We human beings, we're nothing. We're dust. We're fleas on the back of a dog, even though we act like we own the place.

We puny little human beings are nothing compared to the earth. And the earth, it's nothing compared to the universe. But the universe, the vast universe that dwarfs everything about us? That universe is nothing compared to God.

**Last week we heard from presidents Kim and Trump.** They were singing their own praises and singing the praises of their own national power. But when the universe sings, it doesn't sing about itself. When the universe sends a message, it doesn't brag about how big it is. Because the universe isn't corrupted by sin the way we puny little human beings are.

So when the heavens have something to say—I'm talking about the sun and the moon, about stars and galaxies—when the heavens have something to say, they don't declare their own glory. No. They declare the glory the God:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.*

That's how Psalm 19 begins. It begins by turning our attention away from ourselves. It lifts our eyes up, not to the mountains, but above the mountains, to the vastness of the heavens. And those heavens have a story to tell.

**Let's start with the size of the universe.** Now, I haven't seen it. But I read somewhere about a scale model of the solar system that's on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. For this model, the sun is about the size of a grapefruit. Fifty feet away is the earth. It's about the size of the ball in a ballpoint pen. The moon is even smaller, almost invisible. And it's only about an inch and a half from the earth.

At this scale, with the moon almost invisible and with the earth not much bigger—at this scale, our entire solar system fits on the National Mall. But at this scale, the nearest star to our solar system is almost two and a half thousand miles away in California! And at this scale, with the moon almost invisible and with the earth not much bigger—at this scale, the universe is still so vast that there's no way to depict it. It won't fit anywhere. It's that big. So big that we really can't even conceive of it.

**But God has created the universe.** God has created black holes and icy comets. God has created red giants and white dwarfs. God has created super novas and dark matter. God has created it all by his Word, by his perfect Word.

So the energy of the universe reflects the perfect power of God. The brightness of the universe reflects the perfect light of God. The structure of the universe reflects the perfect mind of God. The beauty of the universe reflects the perfect imagination of God. Yet all this reflection of God is dim and dull. Because God is greater than the universe. Because God is beyond the universe.

Then there's us, puny little human beings. We live on that tiny little ball from a ballpoint pen, like fleas on the back of a dog, but we have such a high opinion of ourselves. And we have such a high opinion of our opinions. Yet the entire universe is in the palm of God's hand, while the longest trip any of us has ever made is about an inch and a half, from the earth to the moon.

**We're used to David and Goliath stories.** You know how those stories go. There's the big guy. He's all bragging and bluster. Then there's the little guy. He doesn't stand a chance. But somehow the little guy comes out on top. And the big guy can't cause any more trouble. We like David and Goliath stories. Because we all know what it's like to be the little guy. And we all dream of coming out on top.

But if you put God over in this corner and puny little human beings over in this other corner, then you don't have a David and Goliath story. Because in this story, it's the little guy who is all bragging and bluster. In this story, it's the little guy who kicks sand into the big guy's face. But over in this corner, the whole universe is saying how wonderful the big guy is. Not because they're afraid of the big guy. He's no Harvey Weinstein. No. The heavens declare the

glory of God, because God is so good, because God is so generous, so honest, so wise, so loving, so kind.

That's what we're talking about when we say God is our Creator. It's about more than sheer power. It's about the amazing, generous goodness of God. It's about the perfect wisdom and love of God. It's about all that God is, that we puny little human beings are not. That's what the chart was about in tonight's lesson. In this column, God the amazing! In this other column, human beings, the amazingly puny. Every capital-P perfection of God in this column has its small-p puny version in this other column.

**Now, let me say a couple more things about that chart.** First of all, all those human limitations and all our human puniness—there's nothing wrong with any of it. It's not because of sin that we are so much less than God. I should say that again. It's not because of sin that we are so much less than God. No, it's because God is God, and we are not! It's because God is our Creator, and we are just creatures.

And there's nothing wrong with that. God made us to be creatures. God made us with all our natural limitations. We can only ever be so strong, so wise, so beautiful. That's the way God made us. And the way God made us is very good.

Trouble comes when we forget how puny we are. Trouble comes when we try to be master of the universe. Trouble comes when we start throwing punches, swinging bats, firing Glocks, or launching missiles. Trouble comes when we try to be gods instead of being servants of God.

**And we were made to be servants of God.** Human beings, above all other creatures, are made to give glory to God. We are made to lead the entire creation in declaring the glory of God.

That's what the middle column of the chart is about. It's about a set of unique characteristics we puny little human beings have. It's about a set of unique characteristics called the image of God. And when we say the "image of God," we're talking about how God our Creator made us to reflect his glory.

Of course, all that got messed up by sin. The image got bent and bruised. And we started focusing on our glory and on our own power. But there is good news. Jesus Christ sends the Holy Spirit to us to renew the image of God in us. That's something I should say again. Jesus Christ sends the Holy Spirit to us to renew the image of God in us.

All the voices in this in room, joined together to sing God's praise? That's because of the Spirit. The Spirit has made us alive with Christ. The Spirit has tuned our hearts and our voices to the voice of the universe. Now, by the Spirit, we sing the mighty power of God. We sing the amazing grace of God. We sing the love of God, a love that is more vast than all the heavens, a love that is wide enough for you and for me and for every puny little human being.

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Glory and thanks be to God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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