



THE SONG OF ADVENT



BY CALEB CLICK

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Although many publishers do not capitalize terms, and particularly pronouns which refer to the Trinity, CDM publications has capitalized those elements for reverence and clarity of reference.

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The Song of Eden

Genesis 1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be

lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “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.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding

seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Song of Eden

One of my favorite moments in C.S. Lewis’s *Chronicles of Narnia* happens in *The Magician’s Nephew*. Lewis imagines the creation of Narnia, and it is a creation that begins with a song. A small group of bystanders enters a world of darkness without form and void, but suddenly, a voice penetrates the darkness and begins to sing.

At first, the voice is so far away the group can’t discern its origin. But what began quietly builds, flooding in from every direction at once. The notes of the ascendant song, Lewis writes, “were deep enough to be the voice of the earth herself. There were no words. There was hardly even a tune. But it was, beyond comparison, the most beautiful noise [they] had ever heard...so beautiful [they] could hardly bear it.”¹

As the beautiful song continues, things come to be. Light separates from the darkness. The sun rises. Colors paint the sky. Hills and valleys take shape. Oceans roar, and rivers flow. Life floods the world as plants and animals spring into being, all created by those deep, prolonged notes. But though these things provoke the bystanders’ awe, that awe is nothing compared to what they feel when they see the Singer himself. Because when their eyes fall on the Singer, his presence so overwhelms them that they “forgot everything else.”²

I love that description of creation through song because something about a song uniquely captures the beauty of what

¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Magician’s Nephew* (NYC: HarperCollins, 2010), 103, Kindle.

² Lewis, 107.

transpires in Genesis 1. In our text, God, the Great Artist, starts singing, and all creation explodes into existence—every square inch reverberating with His glory. And over and over, there is this chorus, six times for six days: “And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25).

But then, on the sixth day, God creates something unique. God makes man in His image—male and female—not simply as another piece of the greater whole but as something specially designed and called to lead creation in singing God’s song, to fill the world with its beauty (Genesis 1:26-28).

And it is only here that the chorus changes. God looks at His world, populated with His people, tuned to His song, and echoing its sound, and He declares not only that it is good, but it is *very* good (Genesis 1:31).

Just as in Lewis’s Narnia, while all the creation evokes wonder and excitement, nothing compares to the Singer, the Creator, Himself. His is the glory that makes us forget everything else. And, as the One whose sound created our very being, He is the Singer who should be our Song.

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on Him cast your care,
O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

William H. Draper, (based on a prayer by Francis of Assisi), "All Creatures of Our God and King" in *The Trinity Hymnal* (Suwanee, GA: Great Commission Publications, 2021), 115.