

		<p><b>sermon notes</b></p> <p>May 30 + 31, 2015</p> <p>Pastor Monica Reynolds</p> <p><b>God Understands You</b></p> <p><small><a href="http://CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA">LISTEN, GET NOTES + SHARE AT CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA</a></small></p>
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## Genesis 1:26-28 (NRSV)

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> 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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

### God Understands You Because

You were created \_\_\_\_\_

- Imago Dei
  - Humankind is a **copy** of his/her maker
  - No other creatures share this characteristic
  - Our identity is found here!

### God Understands You Because

God \_\_\_\_\_

- We are called to be co-creators with God

God \_\_\_\_\_

- God is intrinsically relational

We were created with love, *on* purpose and *for* a purpose!

“We are what we love. If we love God, in whose image we were created, we discover ourselves in him and we cannot help being happy: we have already achieved something of the fullness of being for which we were destined in our creation. If we love everything else but God, we contradict the image born in our very essence, and we cannot help being unhappy, because we are living a caricature of what we are meant to be.”

-Thomas Merton

## God Understands You Because

The Word \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.* John 1:1-18 (NRSV)

## God Understands You Because

Jesus was fully \_\_\_\_\_ and also fully \_\_\_\_\_

- Jesus was born
- Jesus experienced milestones
- Jesus learned from teachers
- Jesus cried
- Jesus had feelings
- Jesus was tempted
- Jesus was mocked
- Jesus was betrayed
- Jesus suffered
- Jesus died

"Change begins with understanding and understanding begins by identifying oneself with another person: in a word, empathy."  
- Richard Eyre

## Jesus personifies and epitomizes empathy!

There is nothing you will ever think, feel, or have to go through in this life that Jesus himself didn't already experience. God loves you. God forgives you. God understands you!