

# ORDER OF SERVICE

13 February 2022

Doxology 709  
Praise God

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn 17  
For the beauty of the earth

Young at Heart  
Christine Bradbeer

Welcome and Notices  
Mr Keith Ferres, Session Clerk

Offering and Dedication

Hymn 424  
O love that wilt not let me go

Reading: Genesis 1  
Sonya Rutherford

THE CARE TAKERS  
Genesis 1:27

Prayer of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 423  
O Jesus, King most wonderful

Benediction



## NOTICES

13 February 2022

[www.blackburnpc.org.au](http://www.blackburnpc.org.au)

Wednesday 16 February 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting  
Sunday 20 February 11 am Divine Worship. **Blueprint #3**  
**Spoiler: Hope Remains: Genesis 3**  
**MEETING IN PERSON AND** streamed on Facebook.

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Congregational member: **Alistair ROSS**

and



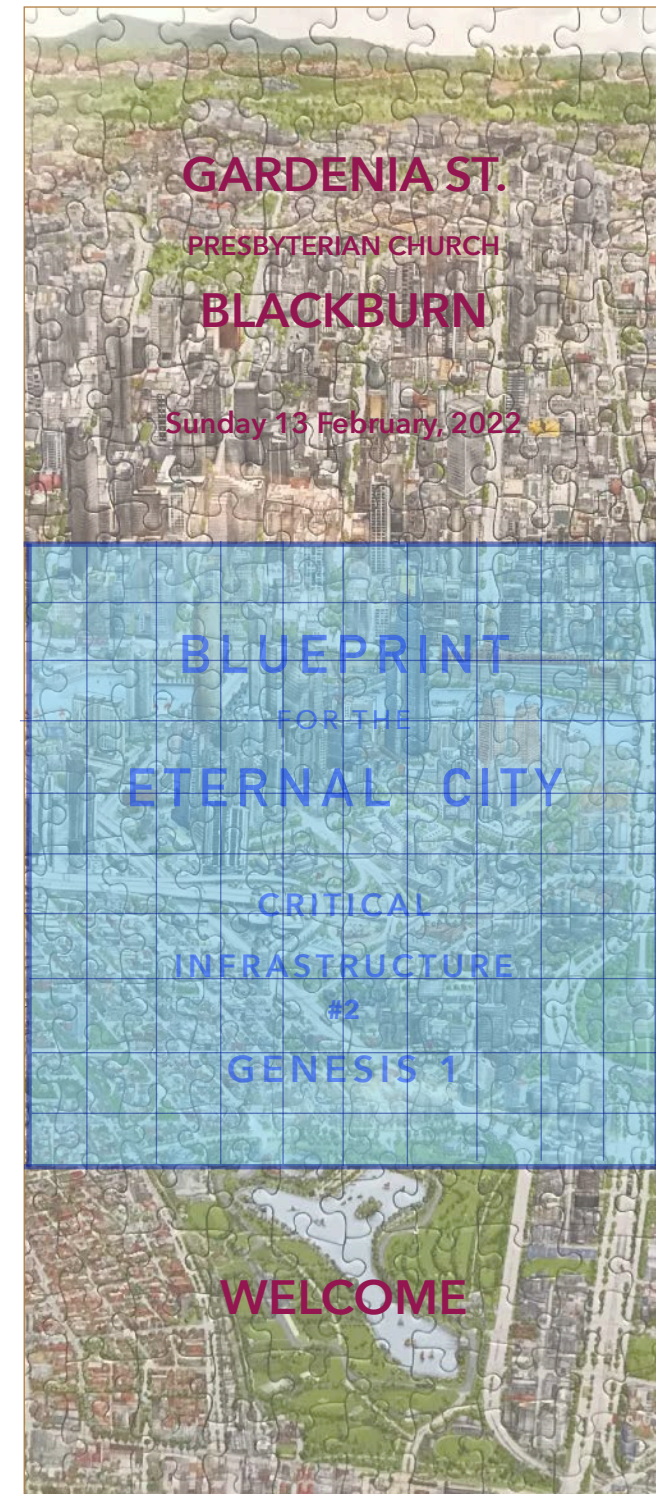
**Hannah DAVIES** is with Pioneers in South Korea and settling into ongoing language learning.



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Sermon Notes

## The Care Takers

The Bible's first chapter is ancient and awesome. It is essentially a one page backdrop to the 1000 pages that follow, yet it is foundational to key aspects of personal and global thinking. We can but scratch the surface this morning.

### 1. Middle East Context and Structure

The memorable six day structure provides a dramatic contrast to other mid-East creation stories. In the fifth century Augustine, in his City of God, wrote the 'days of God are without human analogy'. In the unfolding of the alternative creation narrative the author (a) presents *elohim*, a one only God (b) no conflict between warring gods, (c) humans are created 'god-like' - *imago dei* (d) not as slaves of the gods (e) the stars are relegated (f) the creation is very good.

### 2. The Image of God

Many aspects of our thinking about humanity are shaped by this concept. I will mention just four.

- The one God is plural "now we will make... like us..." Kidner says this is best understood as the plural of fulness. Humanity mirrors this complexity. Humanity is created male and female.
- Human dignity has its origin in the divine image, not in personal achievement. The rest of the Bible reminds us that sin does not destroy the image. This has profound implications at a personal and societal level.
- Created with the land animals on day six, but separately, human beings are both *within* and *over* nature. With all creatures we share a biological life, yet are distinct. Reason and morality are commonly referred to in this context.
- The role of the image bearers is to mimic the creator having dominion over and caring for the creation.

### 3. Wide and personal applications

What should we take from this reflection today? On a grand scale the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has its roots in Genesis 1. At an individual level we have to review our attitude to others. Even if we don't like them we must accord them the dignity of respect.

Under God we are obliged to explore and understand the world and care for all its people. This is our purpose. Nothing less.

The rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly remained severely restricted, and the state exercised strict control over media and civil society. Three activists were convicted in a trial concerning their participation in protests in Thailand and comments made on social media. There was no progress on investigations into a number of enforced disappearances.

Amnesty International 2021

Christian activities are closely watched by the Communist authorities. Some churches are registered, but authorities heavily monitor them. House churches are forced to meet underground as they are considered illegal gatherings. This is especially true in rural areas. Pastors are vulnerable to imprisonment, and once detained, their families and congregations often have to pay large amounts of money to ensure their release.

Life is especially difficult for converts to Christianity, who are at risk of persecution from their family and the local authorities. They are often subjected to pressure, violence, and rejection for refusing to renounce Christ. Provinces in the north and regional villages in the south have traditionally been difficult places for Christians to live. The local authorities in these areas are intent on removing any Christian influence.

Open Doors 2022

The importance of believers in the history of science is revealed by none other than Albert Einstein. Einstein kept pictures of three scientific heroes on the wall of his study: Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday, and James Clerk Maxwell.

Newton (ca. 1642-1727) is one of the most influential scientists of all time, famous for formulating the laws of gravity and motion. While not an orthodox Christian, owing to his denial of the full divinity of Christ, Newton was an earnest believer in God and wrote more about theology than physics.

Faraday (1791-1867) is best known for his work on electromagnetism, and his scientific contributions were so significant that he is considered one of the greatest experimental scientists ever. The Faraday constant is named after him, as is the Faraday effect, the Faraday cage, and Faraday waves. Faraday was a passionate Christian, deeply interested in the relationship between science and faith.<sup>1</sup>

Maxwell (1831-1879) has been credited with the second great unification of physics, bringing together electricity, magnetism, and light. He was an evangelical Presbyterian, who became an elder of the Church of Scotland. For these men, science and faith went hand in hand, and studying God's creation was an act of worship.

But is this just a tiny minority report in the history of otherwise atheistic science? Not at all.

[Read the full very brief history on the link below. Ed.]

A (very) brief history of Christians in Science by Rebecca McLaughlin.

<https://biologos.org/articles/a-very-brief-history-of-christians-in-science>

