

Sunday 11th October 2026: Festival of Creation in Christ, Oswaldkirk and Friday 16th October; Ampleforth.

Today we celebrate the festival of *Creation in Christ*. But what exactly does that mean? It means not just Jesus, the human being who saves us through his life, death and resurrection, but also ‘The Cosmic Christ’; which refers to Jesus Christ as the eternal, universal presence described in the opening chapter of the gospel of John, through whom all creation exists, is sustained, and ultimately reconciled. The Cosmic Christ is seen as the universal presence of God, reaching into all aspects of creation. It underscores the unity of creation, the divine purpose in all things, and the ultimate reconciliation of the universe under Christ’s lordship. The Bible teaches that Jesus is far more than just a man-He is the eternal Son of God, the agent of creation, and the one who holds all things together.

When Paul writes to the Christians in Colossae, he gives them no small picture of Jesus either. He is not merely a wise teacher, a moral example, or a helper for difficult days. He is “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” The God whom no eye can see has made Himself known in Jesus Christ. If we want to know God’s holiness, compassion, authority, and love, we look to the Son. Christian faith begins with God revealing Himself in Christ.

Paul calls Christ “the firstborn over all creation.” In Scripture, “firstborn” speaks of rank, honour, and rightful inheritance. Christ stands above creation as its Lord, for “in him all things were created.” Everything in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, exists because of Him. Paul takes us deeper: all things were created “through him and

for him.” Christ is not only the agent of creation; He is its goal. Mountains, oceans, stars, creatures, nations, and every human life find their true meaning in Him. Yet we often live as though everything existed for our comfort, ambition, possessions, and reputation. Colossians corrects that small vision. We were made for Christ. Creation is the theatre of His glory, not the stage of our self-importance.

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” What a word for anxious hearts. Plans unravel, relationships strain, bodies weaken, and the world feels disordered. Yet beneath all that changes stands the unchanging Christ. The universe is not held together by chance, nor does our hope depend on our ability to control events. The sustaining power of Christ is present in every breath and moment. We may not understand what God is doing, but we can trust the One in whom all things are connected and reconciled. Jesus promises, “Behold I make all things new.”

The Lord of creation is also “the head of the body, the church.” The Church does not belong to its ministers, committees, or congregation; it belongs to Christ. He gives it life, direction, unity, and purpose. As a body cannot flourish apart from its head, the Church cannot live faithfully when Christ is pushed to the margins.

Programmes, traditions, and preferences must submit to Him. The central question for every Christian community is not, “What do we want?” but “What honours Christ, our Head?”

Christ is “the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead.” The Creator entered His wounded creation and passed through death into resurrection life. Jesus is first

not only in the old creation but also in the new. His resurrection begins God's promised renewal. Death is not the end, sin will not reign for ever, and decay will not have the final word. The risen Christ opens the future, and all who belong to Him share His life and hope.

Why must Christ have first place? "God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him." Nothing of God is lacking in Jesus. We need no secret knowledge, additional mediator, or competing power to complete Him. In Christ, the fullness of God draws near. He is sufficient for salvation and worthy of our complete trust. The One who holds the galaxies together is not distant; He has come among us, full of grace and truth.

So let us give Christ the first place He already holds. Let us worship Him as the image of the invisible God, trust Him as Creator and Sustainer, and follow Him as Head of the Church. Let us receive the peace He made at the cross and carry it into our homes, communities, and care for the earth. When life feels scattered, remember in Christ all things hold together. When guilt condemns, remember: His blood makes peace. When the future appears dark, remember: the risen Christ is the beginning. All things are through Him, for Him, and being reconciled by Him in the creation all around us and in our hearts and souls.

Thanks be to God. Amen.