

Sermon preached at OCC, 28 September 2025

Lord, open our hearts and minds with the power of your Holy Spirit so that we may hear your Word with joy. Amen.

Colossians 1:15-20; John 6:41-51

Perfect. Here's a **sermon flow** that weaves *Cosmos*, Colossians 1, and John 6:41–51 into a 12–15 minute message. I'll lay it out with movements, so you can adapt freely:

Sermon Flow

1. Introduction – Standing in Awe

- Begin with a sense of wonder: “On a clear night, when you look up at the sky, do you feel small?”
- Reference Carl Sagan’s *Cosmos*: the universe with billions of galaxies; Earth as the “pale blue dot.”
- Sagan’s famous line: “*We are made of star-stuff.*”
- Transition: But for Christians, awe is not just science—it is worship. Colossians reminds us: “*In him all things hold together.*”

2. The Vastness of Creation (Colossians 1)

- The cosmic scale: Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- Science shows us our smallness, but Scripture shows us the One who gives meaning to it.
- The galaxies and atoms alike are not random accidents—they are sustained by Christ.

3. Star-Stuff and Image-Bearers

- Sagan: we are dust of ancient stars.
- Scripture: we are more than dust—we are God’s image-bearers.
- Colossians: Christ is the image of the invisible God; in Christ, our dust is dignified, and creation’s story meets redemption’s story.

4. The Pale Blue Dot and the Bread of Heaven (John 6)

- Earth as fragile, a tiny speck. Humanity is small and frail.
 - John 6: the Bread of Heaven comes down to this pale blue dot.
 - Christ does not stay distant at cosmic scale, but steps into the smallness—into bread, into human flesh, into our daily lives.
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5. From Wonder to Worship

- Sagan: science invites us to marvel.
- Scripture: invites us to turn marvel into worship.
- Colossians and John together: the Christ who holds galaxies together is the same Christ who offers himself as bread for the life of the world.

6. Application – Meeting God in Two Places

- We meet God in the cosmos: awe, beauty, creation.
- We meet God in the personal Christ: in bread, in word, in community.
- Our calling: not to choose between the cosmic and the personal, but to see Christ in both.
 - Stewardship of creation (cosmic scale).
 - Communion with Christ (personal scale).

7. Conclusion – Held Together

- Without Christ, the cosmos can feel like vast emptiness.
- With Christ, the cosmos is held together in love, and our small lives have infinite meaning.
- End with Colossians' assurance: the One who created the stars is also the One who feeds us with the Bread of Life.

* This should time well to around 12–15 minutes, depending on how much personal story, imagery, or pauses you add.

Would you like me to **draft some sample sermon lines** (like opening sentences or imagery you can actually read out) to make it flow naturally?

Cosmic Christ:

In Colossians, Christ feeds not just individuals but the whole cosmos with life and coherence.

It is especially about 'the Supremacy of Christ,' who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.¹ The word 'firstborn' (*prototokos*) can be understood in two ways: first, Jesus is the *prototokos* of all creation. Jesus, as the bearer of God's image, lived faithfully to that image. In this way, Christ is integral to the creation of the world when the

¹ Colossians 1:15

world came into being through the Word. As such, our human experiences as a whole cannot be alienated from the life of God because of Christ's human experiences. Second, Jesus is the *prototokos* of the dead,² which is a simple statement of the resurrection. Resurrection means both that of Jesus and the promised resurrection of the believer in Christ. Since Jesus is both firstborn of the creation and the dead, we – believers are also partaking in Jesus' firstborn experiences. The word 'firstborn' means something new which didn't exist before. As the partakers of Jesus' life, who was the image of God who is invisible, we experience something new every day. As such, the promise of resurrection is essentially an act of re-creation or new creation. We experience such new creation in this life plainly through the changes of seasons and nature, as well as the changes in our lives. Today we are celebrating spring and cosmos in creation in this service. Spring comes every year, but we may have a different spring each year. Despite the climate changes, we trust that spring will come next year and the year after. Christ is alive and actively works in us. Therefore we, as the faithful bearers of God's image, will be able to regenerate our lives individually that will extend to the entire human community, nature, and creation. It is how we fulfil the task that God commissioned and the way to live as the unique being created according to God's image.

- **Receiving Faith:** This bread is not for private comfort alone but for the healing and reconciliation of the world.

² Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5