

# Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW001)

## The Big Story of God 1: God created the heavens and the earth

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## THE BIG STORY OF GOD 1: GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

### Service Aim:

To teach that God was the Creator of everything and all that He made was good.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

### Biblical Reference(s):

Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 19:1

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### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory Verse:	Presentation of Genesis 1:1 ( <i>"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"</i> ) using iced cookies
Bible Reading:	Genesis 1:1-2:3 (with pictures)
Song:	<u>Song about God's creation</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk:	God created the world and everything in it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything God created was good</li> <li>• God's creation brings Him glory</li> </ul>
Film song:	"Creation calls" (on YouTube)
Prayers:	Thank you / Sorry / Please
Lord's Prayer	
Summary:	God created the world and everything in it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything God created was good.</li> <li>• God's creation brings Him glory</li> </ul>
Final song:	<u>Final Song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is “Who made the world, what was made and why it was made.” If you are using this service as part of the series: “The Big Story of God”, explain that too.

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*  
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,  
**We welcome you here today.**

**Help us Lord to worship you,  
To listen to your Word,  
And to pray in faith,  
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.  
Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

## Memory Verse:

The Memory Verse is Genesis 1:1 (*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*) One way of presenting the memory verse would be by using large iced cookies (which you could either make or buy,) with the words of the memory verse iced onto different cookies as follows:

- Cookie 1: In the
- Cookie 2: beginning
- Cookie 3: God created
- Cookie 4: the heavens and
- Cookie 5: the earth
- Cookie 6: Genesis chapter 1 verse 1 (Gen ch1 v1)

You could say the following:

How many of you enjoy making things?

- What do you enjoy making? *(Receive answers from the congregation)*

<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
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It's fun making things isn't it?

This morning I have six large cookies which I (or someone else) have enjoyed making.

- On each cookie are a couple of words from our memory verse today.
- I need six helpers to come and hold up my cookies (*as the helpers come forward give them a cookies to hold*)
- Let's see if we can get them into the right order (*arrange the helpers so that the words of the memory verse are in the right order*)

Helpers I would like you to read out the word or words on your cookie,

- one person after another, starting with the person on the end holding the cookie saying: "In the"

*(Helpers read out the memory verse)*

Thank you helpers. For those of you who are younger, the word "Created" means "made."

- Let's see if we can all say the memory verse together. (*Congregation say memory verse – you may want to project the words*)

Now we will remove a couple of the cookies and see if we can remember the memory verse. (*Take away a couple of the cookies and say the memory verse again*)

- Let's remove another couple of the cookies and see if we can remember the memory verse. (*Take away a couple of the cookies and say the memory verse again*)
- Thank you helpers.....do go and sit down.....take your cookie and share it with the people around you.

## Reading:

The Bible reading is Genesis 1:1-2:3. This is a very long reading and so could be read from a children's Bible<sup>2</sup> or from the dramatized Bible.<sup>3</sup> If possible, as the reading is read, project pictures of the different things created to keep everyone's attention.

## Song:

Song about God's creation as per Appendix 1

## Talk:

This talk works really well if it is illustrated with the appropriate pictures using power-point, and it lends itself to using visual aids.

Today we are thinking about who made the world, what was made and why it was made.

- So who made the world?

Our Bible reading from the book of Genesis tells us that God made the world that we live in and everything in it.

Before God started, there was nothing.....absolutely nothing,

- but then God spoke and first of all light appeared.
- Isn't that amazing?

<sup>2</sup> The Beginner's Bible – Timeless Children's Stories (available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk))

<sup>3</sup> The Dramatized Bible – Michael Perry (available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk))

He then spoke again and all the different parts of our world were created:

- the sea, the sky, and the land,
- the trees and the flowers,
- the sun, the moon and the stars,
- the fish, the birds, the animals, and us, humans.

The book of Genesis doesn't tell us **how** the world was made,

- how many million years it took or what the processes were,
- because Genesis is a theology book, not a science book.

What the book of Genesis does tell us is that the world and everything in it was created by God.

- As our memory verse says: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis chapter 1 verse 1"*

Having said that God created everything, the Bible then tells us that everything that God made is good.

- Look at this flower *(Show a beautiful flower)*
- Isn't it beautiful?
- It is good

Look at this bunch of grapes *(Show a bunch of grapes)*

- Would anyone like one? *(Hand out grapes)*
- They are tasty aren't they?
- They are good

Look at this rabbit / hamster / guinea pig? *(Show a small animal)*

- Aren't they lovely?
- They are good

The "very good" or best part of God's creation is you and me.

- Each one of us the Bible says, has been created by God,
- and we are all totally unique – one of a kind.

So if God made the world and everything in it,

- and everything he made is good,
- why did God make it?

Listen to this reading from the book of Psalms (19:1):

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*

The Psalmist says that when we look around us,

- when we look at the skies and all the other amazing things in the world,
- they bring glory to God.

If we look at a beautiful painting,

- the painting will bring glory to the artist.

If we listen to an amazing piece of music,

- The music will bring glory to the composer.

If we look at the creation around us,

- It will bring glory to God, the Creator.

On another day we will talk about how God made people different from the animals,

- but for today we have learnt from the Bible that:
- God created the world and everything in it.
- Everything God created was good,
- and God's creation brings Him glory

### Film Song:

The film song is called "Creation calls"<sup>4</sup> (Brian Doerksen) and contains footage from the BBC series "Planet Earth." The purpose of this film song is to inspire awe as the creation glorifies God. The song is 6.03 minutes long, but can easily be cut earlier eg at 4.30 minutes.

At the end of the film say something like:

- From what you have just seen, or from your personal trips around the world,
- what has amazed you most about the world you live in?

People could either sit still quietly and think about this question or if appropriate could discuss it in small groups.

### Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family etc.

The first prayer could be a prayer of **thanks** and praise for God's creation.

The second prayer could be a prayer **saying sorry** for where we have messed up God's creation.

The third prayer could be a prayer **asking** God to help us to care for His creation.

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

### Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

- God created the world and everything in it
- Everything God created was good.
  - God's creation brings Him glory

### Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

### Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

- The LORD bless you and keep you;  
 The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
 The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**[Notices:** If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

<sup>4</sup> The Film song, "Creation calls" can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KEwhLviQrk>  
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## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- At your name (Phil Wickham, Tim Hughes © 2011 Phil Wickham Music)
- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Come on let's celebrate because our God is great (John Hardwick © 1995 Hardwick, John)
- Let everything that (Matt Redman © 1997 Thankyou Music)
- Praise Him you heavens and all that's above (Russell Fragar © 1998 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- Who paints the skies? (Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music)

ii) Song about God's creation. Ideas include:

- All things bright and beautiful (Cecil Frances Alexander, William Henry Monk)
- Creator God (Becky Drake, Nick J Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- God is good, God is great (Alan Price © 1996 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- God of wonders (Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong © 2000 Never Say Never Songs)
- Lovely Jubbly (Doug Horley © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- The earth is the Lord's (Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music)

iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- Creation sings the Father's song (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- From the highest of heights (Jesse Reeves, Laura Story © 2004 Laura Stories)
- O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (Stuart K. Hine © 1949 and 1953 Stuart K. Hine Trust)
- Who put the colours in the rainbow? (J.A.P Booth © J.A.P Booth)