





## *Overview of this week*

- ❖ Themes of Creation (from Migliore)
  - God is the creator
  - Creation is good
  - Creatures are dependent on God
- ❖ Creation and evolution
  - The stakes
  - The basic debate
  - Where we get off track



# *God is the Creator*

- ❖ God is creator, we are not!
  - God is the source of all that exists; God created out of nothingness (*ex nihilo*)
  - The Lordship of Jesus.
- ❖ This is God's world, not ours.
- ❖ God's creation is a free act of grace.
  - God is generous and welcoming
- ❖ God's creation is totally consistent with God's character.
  - The Relational God







# *Creation & evolution*

## ❖ The stakes?

- If we do not understand the questions and issues, we expose ourselves and our children to unneeded assaults on our faith and the Christian understanding of God.

## ❖ Here is the question =>

- How do we account for everything that exists?
- This is a fundamental question that drives so much of our lives and our society, even when we don't think about it very much!



# *Three basic choices*

## ❖ Theism

- There is a God who created all that is and did so willfully, with purpose.
- This choice gets us only part way to the Christian understanding of God.
  - A god with purpose could be the absentee landlord!

## ❖ Materialism

- All that is can be accounted for by time and chance working on some eternal “stuff.”
  - There is no overarching purpose or direction.

## ❖ Pantheism

- God and the material universe are one. Our idea that they aren't is really just an illusion (*maya* in Hinduism), from which we need to be freed.







## *How do we help our youth (and ourselves!)*

- ❖ Better education and understanding.
  - Perhaps we need to be more proactive in preparing our youth for college.
- ❖ Be willing to point out theological claims when they are made.
  - The claim that we are the result of time and chance working on eternal “stuff” is theology. The claim that bird = cat = dog = boy is a theological claim.
- ❖ Be willing to make the moral claims that stem from our belief in God.
  - Scientific materialism provides no basis for any absolute moral claims. What is moral becomes what is believed to be best for the most people – an exercise in raw power.