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Beginnings: A Call to Worship from Genesis and Ephesians

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Reader 1 (R1): In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Congregation or reader 3 (R3): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Reader 2 (R2): Just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him.

R1: Then God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

R2: Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light.

R1: He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace . . .

R3: To the praise of his glorious grace.

R1: Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our own image, according to our likeness . . .”

R2: So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

R1: For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R2: He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

R1: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.

R3: To the praise of his glorious grace.

R1: I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

R2: so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

R1: and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

R3: To the praise of his glorious grace.