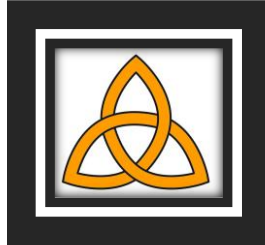


## Worship at home

June 12, 2022  
*Trinity Sunday*  
*Holy Communion*



### ***God calls us to worship:***

Responsive reading: Psalm 8

**Hymn:** #295 “When long before time”

### ***We offer our prayers:***

Prayer of Praise and Supplication (*please remain standing*):

Holy God, who is One in Three and Three in One, we praise you this day  
as the Source of all life, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Holy Father,

you created us and called us good, shepherding us with your steadfast love.

Jesus Christ, we praise you this day,

born into our midst to show us the way of goodness, mercy and grace;  
to bring salvation through your sacrificial death on our behalf.

Holy Spirit, we praise you this day

for the energy you bring us to greet each day as a gift  
and serve in the world with gladness.

Holy God, Three in One and One in Three,

reveal to us this day what it means to live as your people  
so that we may honour your holy name,  
now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

*If we say that we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,*

*and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)*

*Yet we know that nothing is able to separate us  
from the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

*Let us, therefore, be free to confess our sins  
before the God who is faithful and just. (1 John 1:9)*

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**God of mercy;**

**As we gather to celebrate your gift of love  
we recall the times when we forget you  
and are divided one from the other.**

**How often our thoughts, our words, and our actions  
have betrayed the goodness you have shown to us.**

**Forgive us.**

**Mend what is broken.**

**Heal the wounded relationships**

**that separate us from you,**

**from one another,**

**and which leave us divided within ourselves;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

***God offers the assurance of grace:***

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?”

Yet you have made them a little lower than the divine beings,  
and crowned them with glory and honour.”

“What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
... to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become  
children of God.”

Hear and believe the good news:

in Jesus Christ, sin is forgiven;

in Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to our heavenly Father;

in Jesus Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit;

in Jesus Christ, we can know peace.

Accept the grace of God,  
and be at peace.

And give thanks to the Lord,

for He is good;

His love endures forever.

Amen.

***We offer our lives and resources:***

*Offering plates are positioned as you enter and leave the sanctuary. If you'd prefer to use e-transfers, please speak with Rev. Ian, Judy Armstrong (St. Andrew's), or Howard McKellar (Knox)*

**God speaks to us:**

**Hymn:** #330 “O God, our help in ages past”

**Readings:** Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-36

Romans 5:1-5

John 1:1-5, 10-18

In the beginning

I want you to imagine a lake. It's summertime. The sky is blue, the sun's bright, and there are just a few big, fluffy, white clouds drifting slowly overhead. The shoreline is composed of rocks covered in a thin layer of duff – decomposing needles and brush. Along the shore are towering pine trees whose roots somehow find enough soil and water in the crevices to sustain their enormous height throughout the decades. The wind rustles the pine needles overhead while the kids playing on the shore and the adults enjoying the sun create a cacophony of summer noise. You go swimming. You feel the water on your skin. It's a perfect temperature. You drift out from the shore, lying on your back. You feel the soft buoyancy of the water surrounding you and upholding you with minimal effort on your part. You feel the heat of the sun warming your face as you lean your head back with your eyes closed until your ears are submerged. The cacophony becomes muffled. Even though you are aware of the busyness on shore and the boats driving by, in that moment, floating in that expanse of water, you experience only peace. There is a sense of assurance, a sense of harmony.

That is the sensory memory that is evoked for me whenever I read those three words:

*In the beginning....*

Three words which offer a sense of majestic calm. A sense that there is purpose and reason. A sense that there is an embedded order in all that is good and holy. A sense that we are immersed in something far greater than ourselves which nevertheless upholds us with a soft, yet decisive buoyancy; that though we are but mere mortals, the Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth invites us into communion with Himself and has crowned us with glory and honour.

*In the beginning was the Word...*

John wrote his gospel in Greek for a Greek speaking congregation. The Greek word which is rendered in English as “Word”, is *logos*. *Logos*, in its most tangible sense, means simply a thought that is audibly expressed.

That is what is a word. A word is merely an expression of a thought.

In Greek philosophy, *logos*, perhaps because of its association with thoughts, referred to the abstract concepts of reason and logic which, it was believed, bring order and harmony to the universe. Reason, logic, and their close cousin wisdom, created and upheld a well-ordered, purposeful, and peaceful existence.

“In the beginning was reason, and logic, and wisdom. ...”

In the beginning was the opposite of chaos and cacophony.

In the beginning was the Word.

After this opening sentence which calls to mind reason, logic, wisdom, and order, and, consequently, evokes feelings of assurance and peace, John then steered his readers away from philosophy and to theology.

The qualities of the *logos* they so valued, he argued, have been with God and inseparable from God since before creation came into being. In fact, as Proverbs 8 affirms, creation came into being *because* of the reasonable, logical, and orderly thought processes of the Living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Proverbs 8 is a poem that praises wisdom and personifies wisdom as a woman: Woman Wisdom. The section we read imagines wisdom as being the first of God’s acts of creation.

*The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.*

Before everything else, there was God, and God held all wisdom, reason, and logic. He held the *logos*, the Word.

In the beginning God spoke reason and logic, in the beginning God spoke wisdom, and from there “all things came into being. ...”

John then guides his readers further along this path by affirming that not only are these highly-prized philosophical qualities integral to the character of the God of

creation, they are localized and given flesh, blood, and bones in the person of Jesus of Nazareth!

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ... And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*

This Jesus, who gave his life in real blood on the cross for our salvation, who breathes the Spirit into our souls in baptism, and who will come again at the wedding of heaven and earth, was with the Father and the Spirit “before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame...”

Although we tend to expend a lot of effort trying to understand and explain God, scripture does not. Instead, scripture simply proclaims that God *is* – that He exists and has always existed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that in communion with Him there is peace beyond understanding; that He is the lake in which we can calmly float amid the cacophony on shore. And then invites us into communion with the Holy Trinity.

This Sunday we will be sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper. At the Table, the Lord meets us in the bread and wine and draws us into the holy mystery of the Trinity in communion with Himself. If you’re unable to be with us in person, there will be another opportunity during next Sunday’s gathering of the Living Water Forest Church at the Shell fountain in Guthrie Park at 3:00 p.m.! Alternatively, contact Rev. Ian and arrangements can be made to celebrate the sacrament at home.

In prayer, adoration, and sacrament received in faith, the Holy Trinity draws us into communion with Himself. And, in the written words of Scripture, the Word made flesh equips us to live our daily experiences in the power of the Holy Spirit and grounded in the sensory faith-memory of Communion.

For the rest of June and July, we’re going to be looking at parts of the Book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs is a collection of pithy wisdom sayings that are meant to

help one lead a peaceful, harmonious, and successful life. The pedal tone that underlies the whole wisdom tradition is the belief that wisdom that achieves such an end comes from the God who created life itself. To know God, therefore, one must seek wisdom by the illumination of the Spirit in prayer, in worship, in the sacraments, and in our quotidian tasks.

For the health of our souls, the good of our societies, and the glory of God.

Amen.

**Hymn:** #558 “The Son of God proclaim”

## ***The sacrament of the Lord's Supper***

### *Invitation to the Lord's Table:*

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
They will come from east and west,  
and from north and south,  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,  
he took bread, blessed, broke it,  
and gave it to them.  
Then their eyes were opened  
and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.  
Our Saviour invites all those who trust him  
to share the feast which he has prepared.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good.

As we prepare our hearts and minds to come to the Table,  
let us examine our own faith  
as we recite together the Apostles' Creed.

### *The Apostles' Creed*

#### *The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (#564):*

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

With a rush of wind and tongues of fire,  
you fulfilled the promise of Christ  
by sending your Holy Spirit  
to form the church.  
By that same Spirit you grace us with gifts,  
empower us to proclaim your gospel  
and to serve you in the world.

How wonderful are your ways, almighty God.  
How marvelous is your name, O Holy One.  
You alone are God.  
Therefore with apostles and prophets,  
and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space,  
we join with the whole creation  
to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, ...**

We praise you, most holy heavenly Father,  
for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
Sharing our joy and sorrow,  
he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners.

Obeying you,  
he took up his cross and died that we might live.  
We praise you that he overcame death  
and is risen to rule the world.  
He is still the friend of sinners.  
We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us,  
and believe that when he comes in glory  
we will celebrate victory with him.

Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take this bread and this cup  
and give you praise and thanksgiving  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, ...**

Holy Spirit,  
awaken us to your presence and power  
with us,  
and through this bread and wine,  
so that we, and all who share this feast,  
may be one with Christ and he with us.

Holy and Triune God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
Here and now, we offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to you.  
In your mercy,  
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.  
Fill us with the joy of eternal life,  
that we may be your faithful people  
until we feast with you in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.



*The Breaking of Bread:*

Hear now the words of institution of the Lord's Supper as recorded by the apostle Paul:

READ 1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHINAS 11:23-26.

These are the gifts of God  
for the people of God.

*The Communion*

*Prayer after communion:*

Eternal God,  
we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

***God sends us with God's blessing:***

Go into the world in peace.  
Whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God through him.

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of the Father  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.