

Worship on June 4, 2023 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 299 Holy, holy, holy
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – 5 Lord, our Lord, your glorious name (Psalm 8)

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Second reading: Matthew 28:16-20
- Third reading: Psalm 8 (refrain 1)
- Sermon: What are we that you are mindful of us?
- Praise song: BOP 252 He is Lord
- Communion, the Apostles' Creed

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 425 We praise you, O God vs. 1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 328 This is my Father's world

We Serve

- Benediction

As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,
and focus on our Lord and King.

Responsive Call to Worship

Holy are you, Source and Creator of all things;

We praise you for your gift of life.

Holy are you, Son and Redeemer of all things;

We thank you for your gift of new life.

Holy are you, Spirit and Sustainer of all things;

We bear witness to your truth and worship your holy name,

Ever Three and Ever One.

Praise song – BOP 299 Holy, holy, holy

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Holy God, you are Three in One and One in Three.

Praise to you, Creator God, the Source of life, maker of Heaven and Earth, who created us in
your image and called us good.

Praise to you, Jesus Christ, born in our flesh to teach us how to love and offer us grace and mercy.

Praise to you, Holy Spirit, for the energy you bring us to greet each day as a gift.

Holy God, Three in One and One in Three, we praise you for your mystery and mercy.

Reveal to us how to live as your people and witness to your wonders and grace and love.

God of mystery and mercy, you know the details of our lives. You see the sin and the sorrow we bear; you see the problems and the possibilities we face. You see how we fit into the world around us and how we guide each other in worldly ways. We confess that we do not always see what you see. Open our eyes to the truth of our lives and touch us with your grace. Give us courage so we can trust you and follow your steps with our whole lives.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends in Christ, the Apostle Paul reminds us that from now on we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's gift of forgiveness and peace!

May the peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share this joy of our Risen Lord.

Prayer for children and youth

God of love and grace, we praise you and worship you for your faithfulness. Jesus promised us, if we bring all our burdens to him, he will take care of them. He will take care of us and he will never let us go. We are secure in him, forever. Lord God, let this precious promise be experienced by our beloved children and youth. Let our faith hand down to them. Open their eyes and let them see you. Open their ears and let them listen to the beautiful love song from your heart. Let your glory capture their hearts and their whole beings, so that they confess your Lordship. "My God, my Lord.." So that they kneel down before you. So that they engrave your love in their hearts. Gracious and loving God, be worshipped and be glorified through the lives of our children and youth. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 5 Lord, our Lord, your glorious name (Psalm 8)

Prayer for Illumination:

God, you have spoken through your Living Word, Jesus Christ. Your Spirit speaks through the Scriptures. Grant us understanding through what we see in Jesus and hear in the Scriptures that we may know your will and follow your way.

First reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Second reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Third reading: Psalm 8 (refrain 1)

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: What are we that you are mindful of us?

Today is the first day of this year’s **General Assembly** in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The General Assembly is a gathering of ministers and elders to consider important matters for our church ministries and missions.

Please pray for the people gathered. May God’s wisdom and God’s love and grace fill their hearts, so we all can confess that the Head of our church is only Jesus Christ. May we see the guidance of God.

Also, today is **Trinity Sunday**. Trinity is God in three Persons. **God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**. It is a mystery no one can fully understand. People tried to understand this concept. Some came up with God changing his appearance by situations.

For example, I am a pastor here at church. One of my identities is a pastor.

To my children, I am their father. One of my identities is a father.

To my wife, I am her husband. One of my identities is a husband.

So, God, ONE GOD, sometimes functions as Father, sometimes works as Son, and sometimes becomes the Holy Spirit.

Like water becomes liquid, steam, or ice. God becomes different forms..?? NO. That’s not right. IT IS NOT TRUE. FALSE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRINITY.

Nice try, but not quite. Trinity God is Three in One and One in Three.

We try to understand. It’s good, but we cannot.

My son Benjamin reads baby books. He understands pictures of the books. If I give him my sermon script or college textbooks, would he understand it with his own wisdom? No.

It is somewhat similar to this. God’s wisdom vs. our wisdom.

We are totally different from God. God is beyond our reach, beyond our understanding, beyond our power. Simply God is BBBBIIIIIGGGG and we are so small. (hand gesture)

Today’s sermon title is **“What are we that you are mindful of us?”**

This is from **vs. 4, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them.”**

This is not a question, but statement. This BIG God cares for us. The Psalmist realized the great love of God and how could this be! He is shocked by the love of God.

V1, **“O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.”**

This comes from experience. Do you have the God-experience? It doesn’t have to be striking or beyond our common sense. **God’s love, God’s encouragement, God’s guidance, wisdom, grace, mercy, holiness, greatness, power, caring, engaging, presence, friendship, the list goes on and on.**

When coming to church, when reading the Bible, when praying at home alone, when looking around the nature, all the things God created, thinking about the mysteries and wonders of our body, how it's built... in everything we see, we can see God's wonderful handy works.

Psalm 19, The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voices is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Some said this whole world is a giant book of God and this Bible is small book revealing the secrets of God.

I brought today's psalm to encourage you to look at the sky, trees and nature. God's creation reveals God's glory. Our God created everything we can see and he governs them all.

God is a giant. But, at the same time, God is a person God.

When I wrote down this sermon, I searched the whole population of the world. It was 8 billion 36 million. **8,036,639,070**. Daily birth is 140,000. Daily death is 70,000.

Every day, the population grows by 70,000.

How many??? Too many..

On Friday, it was PA day for our children, so I took them to Canada's Wonderland, Amusement Park. Line up is beyond my imagination. To drink water, there were 50 people ahead of us. To buy pizza, there were 150 people lining up. We all feel there are too many cars on the road comparing to past years.

What I want to say is there are too many people in our surroundings. But, my point is our God who created the whole universe and takes care of them all, ALSO knows all human beings. Just like God takes care of his creation, he takes care of each and every one of us. God knows through and through all 8 billion people.

Do you see this God's macro level of power and this micro level of personal love?

V3 and 4, **"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?"**

What is the chief end of man? It is to glorify God and to enjoy him.

Glorifying God looking at the power and wisdom in creation and enjoy God in his presence in our daily lives and his personal love for each person.

This all powerful God is in community. That is the Holy Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Three in One and One in Three Persons. This Trinity God invites us to join in his community. **V5-8, "Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas."**

God has given us dominion over the works of his hands.

God gave us power to take care of his own creation.

God made us higher than other creatures and gave us authority to rule them.

God made us stewards of his creation.

God invites us to be the co-creator of his world.

WHY?

Why did God invite us to his work? Because he wants us to work for him? He does not have enough power for his creation? He created us for his work? God needs our help? No.

The reason God created us and invites us is to be with him.

God loves us – and gave himself for us.

So, we are to love the world and we are to give ourselves to the world, just as God did for us, as the co-creator with God. So, we are created to love. When we do not love, we are destroying the image of God within us.

(pic) << God – love – << **us** >> – love – the world >>

This is what we are and this is why God is mindful of us, so that we can join in God's community. May God open your heart and establish a personal relationship with you and deepen it day by day. Love God and love the world with the love we have received.

This is the word of the Lord for us today. Let us praise and worship God.

Praise song: BOP 252 He is Lord

Communion At The Lord's Table This is the time for Communion at the Lord's Table.

This is the promise of God. In your Son Jesus Christ the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory, that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvellous light. Jesus Christ is waiting for all of us with his arms open wide. Let us come and join him.

As we join the Lord's Table, let us confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed (BOP 539)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) **(Please say BOLD print together)**

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

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

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

L: God of wonder and God of faithfulness, 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 poured out your grace upon us with gifts, empower us to proclaim your gospel and to serve you

in the world. With apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, **we lift our hearts in joyful praise:**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Holy God, how wonderful are the works of your hands! When sin had scarred the world, you entered into covenant to renew the whole creation. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, as a father joyfully welcomes his own, you embraced a people and filled them with longing for a peace that would last, for a justice that would never fail. Through the countless generations, you satisfied the hunger of your people, you quenched the thirst of your people. Faithful God, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that we may become one in Christ, and that his coming in glory will find us holy and pleasing to you as living sacrifices. With your body and blood, make us strong in truth and in love, and faithful in our lives. Through Christ, by 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.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (BREAD)

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us take it)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (CUP)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. With deep gratitude, we offer you our lives, our love, ourselves. Gathered in Jesus, by your life-giving Spirit, may we become a new people, holy and pleasing to you, a people giving glory to your name.

Trinity God, you are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. You are a mysterious God. You are beyond our understanding. But, with unfathomable love, you invite us to join your community. You made us co-creator of your created world. Help us love you and help us love the world. So, Lord, help us maintain your image within us.

God of wisdom and love, this year’s General assembly is held from today in Nova Scotia. There still is wildfire. Keep your servants safe and protect them. Give them wisdom to listen and give them courage to love. Show all your church that you are the Head and the Leader of your church. Churches are struggling these days. God, breathe your breath. Give life in your church. Let your light shine through your people. Strengthen your people and let your great love hand down to our

next generations. Also, we pray for wildfires and victims. Gracious God, wildfire is damaging too much. This is too much for us to take. Please stop fires in the West and East. We want to protect your creation. We want to become good stewards. Please help us. Please protect all the people who try to stop the wildfires in the frontline. Protect them and help them.

We remember our church members. Gracious God, pour out your grace upon us and help us worship you with our whole hearts. Help us come to your presence daily and bring our burdens to you, so we experience you in our daily lives.

Watch over us in our life's situations and give us suitable grace in your timing.

Thank you Lord for allowing us to have two new elders next week. Deborah Simmerson and Christine Tian. Gracious God, give courage and faith to them as they commit themselves to you as ordained elders. Bless their lives and families. When they work for you, Lord, work for their lives and families. Thank you for our expectant future with them. Strengthen our session members and help us, strengthen us for you. Through all the things we do, Lord, be glorified and be worshipped.

You are the Head of our church and only you are the Leader of our church.

In Jesus' precious and awesome name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Trinity Sunday proclaims the outpouring of love within God's own being, for God's very nature is love. May our gifts offer an outpouring of our love for God and our willingness to put that love into action in God's world. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

The Doxology (BOP 425)

Offering prayer:

God of overflowing love, receive our gifts as signs of our love and commitment to live for you. Bless our gifts and our lives, that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, as we follow Jesus, equipped by the Spirit to serve you well and wisely. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

Song for the Journey – BOP 328 This is my Father's world

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God is majestic and all powerful in creating and governing the whole universe, but at the same time, he cares in micro level. He knows each one of our names and knows all the things we have in our hearts. Meet God and be amazed by him. Engage relationship with him and live with him.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.