

Sunday Worship on June 15, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 299 Holy, holy, holy
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 300 Father, we love you

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: John 16:12-15
- Second reading: Psalm 8 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Romans 5:1-5
- Sermon: **Standing in grace, growing in hope**
- Hymn BOP 436 God, we praise you for the morning
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 293 Come, thou almighty King

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Ascribe to the Lord all glory and honour.

How majestic is God's name in all the earth!

Come and worship God in holy splendour.

How majestic is God's name in all the earth!

To the Creator, Christ, and to the Holy Spirit,

be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Praise song – BOP 299 Holy, holy, holy

Prayer of Adoration

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.

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. 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.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

God of mercy and majesty, you are slow to anger and swift to forgive. You have shown us the depth of your love, yet we are reluctant to love others who differ from us. You have shown us compassion and forgiveness, yet we walk away from one another without concern. You have offered us hope in Christ Jesus, yet we lose that hope when life is challenging. Forgive us, O Lord. Create in us the endurance and character which help us trust in the power of your forgiving love. Amen.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (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

God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Be at peace with God, be at peace with one another, and be at peace with yourself, through the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song – BOP 300 Father, we love you

Prayer for Children

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: John 16:12-15
- Second reading: Psalm 8 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Romans 5:1-5

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

SERMON: Standing in grace, growing in hope

Trinity Sunday is one of those special days in the church year when we pause to reflect on something mysterious and beautiful. It is the nature of our God. One God in three persons. **God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.** It is a mystery we don't fully understand. But we experience the Triune God deeply in our lives.

In the Romans passage, Paul shows us what the Trinity does. Paul writes not just who God is, but what God does in our lives. **The Father gives peace, the Son gives us access to grace, and the Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts.** The outcome is that **we are held together by the Trinity.** We are standing in grace and growing in hope.

This is how Paul begins today's passage, v1, **“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Peace with God. That is not just a feeling of calm. It's a relationship restored. We are no longer enemies of God. No longer divided. No longer separated from God. We are brought close to God. We are reconciled to God through justification.

This is the work of the Father, who initiates this peace through his love. It is a peace that cannot be earned. It is not maintained by our perfection. It is given to us by grace. God the Father welcomes us, not reluctantly, but joyfully.

Do you feel distant from God recently? Do you feel unworthy or unsure if God still welcomes you? Paul's words remind us today: **WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD.**

Paul didn't say "**not might have had** peace with God." Paul didn't say that "we **hope to have** peace with God." But, Paul clearly said, **WE HAVE.** We have peace with God because of what God has done, not what we did, do, or will do.

Psalm 8:4, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"

David was amazed by God. This echoes David's praise. It's a song called "Who Am I?"

Not because of who I am

But because of what you've done

Not because of what I've done

But because of who you are

It's 100% God, not us.

Paul continues, **v2, "through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand."**

Who gives us access to grace? Jesus Christ, the Son.

This **access** is a powerful word. In Greek, it's like being brought into the presence of a king by someone who speaks on their behalf. Jesus is that someone. Jesus brings us into the presence of God. Because of Jesus Christ, we are not strangers, but we are beloved children of God.

And we don't just come and go. Paul says we stand in this grace. It is a permanent position. Grace is our ground, our footing, our spiritual home. Our firm foundation.

Sometimes, we feel like our relationship with God depends on how well we're doing spiritually. But grace says otherwise. We are standing in grace. We are rooted in it. Jesus has made the way for us.

Paul says, **"We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."**

This is where things get harder. Suffering is real. Paul isn't sugar-coating suffering. But he says suffering is not wasted in God's hands. It leads somewhere. It grows something.

That growth comes through the Holy Spirit. **Because what holds us through suffering?** Not our strength. But **the love of God poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.**

Therefore, Paul can say these.

Suffering produces endurance. Through suffering, we can gain the ability to keep going when things are tough.

Endurance produces character. Through enduring, we get a kind of spiritual maturity. It is tested and proven by the time of endurance.

Character produces hope. It's not false optimism. It is a deep-rooted expectation that God is at work.

Sometimes we go through hard times and trials. We feel like they will break us. But, know this.

The Holy Spirit is not distant in your suffering. He is present. He is forming and shaping you. He is pointing you toward hope.

Isaiah 43:1-2, "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Paul boldly promises in **v5, "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."**

Here, we can see the works of the whole Trinity.

The Father's love

Given through the Son's sacrifice

Poured into us by the Holy Spirit

It is a beautiful picture. Not just some drops of love, not a drizzle, but **POURED OUT.** Lavishly, fully, without holding back.

The love of God is poured down upon us like Niagara Falls.

Through this love, we can fix our hearts on the hope in the Lord. This hope will not disappoint us. Although there might be sufferings, but we will grow in God's faithfulness. The Trinity is not just a doctrine, not just some abstract concept. It is the source of our peace, our standing, our strength, and our future.

Look at this picture of a tree. This tree is planted beside water. Its roots go deep and wide. When storms come, it is not uprooted. When in drought, we are not withered. We are like this tree planted beside water. The Trinity roots us in the love of God, in the grace of Jesus, in the peace of the Father.

Today's Romans passage gives us a glimpse of what life in the Trinity looks like. The life lived in the presence of the Triune God.

The Father gives us peace. The Son gives us access to grace. And the Holy Spirit pours love into our hearts.

Through all of these, we are led to a **hope** that grows even through suffering, a **hope** that does not disappoint, a **hope** grounded in the unshakable love of God.

So, today, on this Trinity Sunday, **let us celebrate not only who God is, but what God has done and is doing and will do in our lives.**

We are standing in grace, growing in hope, and held together by the Trinity.

This is the message of the Lord for us today. Amen.

Praise song – BOP 436 God, we praise you for the morning

Prayer for the people:

Gracious and Triune God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We come before you with hearts full of gratitude. You are our peace, our strength, and our hope.

Heavenly **Father**, thank you for the gift of peace. When we were far from you, you drew us near. When our hearts were restless, you gave us rest. You did not wait for us to fix ourselves, but you welcomed us through your boundless love. Help us rest in that peace, even when the world feels chaotic or uncertain.

Lord **Jesus** Christ, thank you for the grace in which we now stand. You opened the way for us to come boldly before God. You meet us in our weakness, lift us from shame, and anchor us in your mercy. Help us live not in fear or guilt, but in the freedom of your forgiveness.

Holy Spirit, thank you for your presence in our suffering. You do not leave us alone in pain or trial. You produce endurance, character, and hope within us. You pour the love of God into our hearts when we feel empty. Give strength to those who are weary, comfort to those who mourn, and peace to those facing trials too heavy to carry alone.

We pray for those struggling in body, mind, and spirit. Bring healing, clarity, and renewal. We lift up those in difficulties in many aspects of life. Be their help and be light in this difficult time. We pray for the world around us. Where there is violence, bring peace. Where there is injustice, bring justice. Where there is despair, bring hope.

Lead and guide us to be your church so that we may live this hope boldly. Root us in your love, grow us in your grace, and send us out with courage and joy. Remind us all the time that we are held together by your perfect love.

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

Invitation to the offering:

The season of Pentecost celebrates the **outpouring** of God's Spirit upon the Church with the gifts needed to serve others in Jesus' name. Let us offer God our gifts this day with grateful hearts, and in the spirit of generosity revealed in Christ.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

(BOP #457, Now thank we all our God Vs. 1)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, thank you for all your gifts which bring us hope and joy. Bless the gifts we bring and work with them to establish your reign in the world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Song for the Journey – BOP 293 Come, thou almighty, King

Now, it is time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be.
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Triune God is working in our lives.
Open your hearts and eyes to your surroundings. God may speak to you of his love and grace.
We are not that reliable. But God is. Place your foundation in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and in this love, let us grow in the works of the Trinity God.

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