
May 27, 2018

Trinity Sunday
Year B

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

SELECTED READING AND THEME:

John 3:1-17

The Mystery of the Trinity

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into this house of praise
and worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Know that the majesty of our God
is both here in our midst and beyond our comprehension.

We come not to contain God
but to experience anew the life which sustains all things.

**We come before our God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship and wonder.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Great God,
you whose name is Father, Son and Spirit,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
move amongst us and stir within us
a yearning for you.

Open our lives to your ever-present nature,
that we might fully know the love you have for each one of us.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God,
the mystery of your life is beyond our comprehension,
yet we confess there are times when we try to contain you
for we fear that if we are truly open to your mystery,
then we might be changed in ways we do not want.
Free us from our need for control and certainty, we pray.

Sustaining God,
we confess again the idolatry of self-reliance.

Too often we have believed that we do not need your grace,
that our lives might be complete without you.
This in turn becomes our own undoing
as we feel crushed, realising our own limitations.
Free us from the chains of our own making and give us new life.

Redeeming God,
you have come into our world in liberation,
giving new life and freedom.
We confess before you those times when we would rather
believe these things are impossible
so that we can stay comfortable in systems which diminish and enslave.
Liberate us from our own foolishness, we pray.
(*Silent reflection*)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Now hear these words of assurance:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.
God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Through Christ we stand forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

Almighty God,

with seraphim and cherubim, we cry out:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of your glory”.

We give thanks for your life

in the cosmos: in galaxies and far away stars;

in the earth: in changing seasons and the wonder of diversity;

in the church: in a gathered community and promises told;

in each other: in old and young alike, in the mysteries of birth and death.

Your life is both awesome and beyond all knowing, yet also personal and near.

We give you thanks for your life all around. Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Although the doctrine of the Trinity develops fully after the formation of the Biblical witness, the reality of God as expressed in three persons (Father, Son or Christ, and Spirit) is certainly found throughout the New Testament. This passage from the Gospel of John is one in which this three-fold nature of God seems to be taking shape. The doctrine of the Trinity is a piece of practical theology that points to the different ways we experience God (Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer) and names these as all being of the One God. It is one of the mysteries of the faith that cannot be fully explained, but then again, the nature of God is found in the ineffable and inexplicable – anything less would fail to be divine.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

God's love is alive in the world around us, a gift for all.
We share in our offering as a response to God's love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy One,
your generosity calls out the best in us.
Help us to share in generosity towards the earth and all its creatures.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God of all life,
we pray for your creative presence to flow over all the earth.
Today we especially pray for sensitive ecosystems,
waterways that are distressed,
and animals which are endangered, all of it your creation.
May we be good stewards of creation and join with you in its restoration.
(*silence*)

We pray for your redeeming presence to flow over all the earth.
Today we especially pray for people who have lost hope:
for people abused and misused,
for victims of war and hate,
for the marginalized and forgotten.
May we be instruments of your healing
and join with you in rebuilding the human community.
(*silence*)

We pray for your sustaining presence to flow over all the earth.
Today we especially pray for your church:
may it boldly act in love,
may it embrace all people,
may it break bread and remember.
May all we do and say bear witness to your life in the world.
Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

God is a Holy Mystery, a Trinity of divine love
which creates, redeems and sustains all things.
This is the One in whose name we serve
embodying the great joy of the Gospel.
Let us go out into the world proclaiming this mystery
and living into our identity as beloved children of the Most High.
Go in peace.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

HYMNS:

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Bright the vision that delighted	AHB.69
God of many names, gathered into one	TiS.180
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty	TiS.132 AHB.65
I, the Lord of sea and sky	TiS.658 ATEverybody.296
Stand up and bless the Lord	TiS.449 AHB.383
Ye watchers and ye holy ones	TiS.150 AHB.87

Psalm 29

God, who stretched the spangled heavens	TiS.163 AHB.112
O give the Lord, you children of God	TiS.17
The Lord is King, and like a king	AHB.19

Romans 6: 12-17

Baptized into your name most holy	TiS.481
Breathe on me, breath of God	TiS.407 AHB.320
By your kingly power, O risen Lord	TiS.386 AHB.306
Of the Father's love begotten	TiS.290 AHB.215
We are heirs of the Father	SIS.165 ATNow.12

John 3: 1-17

Father in heaven, grant to your children	TiS.465 AHB.399
God is love, let heaven adore him	TiS.153 AHB.93
Immortal, invisible, God only wise	TiS.143 AHB.80
So God loved the people of the world	TiS.241 SA.78
There's a spirit in the air	TiS.414 SFGP.30
Wash, O God, our sons and daughters	TiS.493

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