

## Home Service for 6/12/2022

### Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

*Wisdom is calling. She calls from the highest heavens and speaks with truth on her lips, calling all people to faith, peace, hope, and love.*

### Call to Worship:

To you, O people, Wisdom calls. She calls out to each of us, beckoning us: to experience peace in Christ, to discover the truth of life, to know true love as it is poured into our hearts. Wisdom calls. Let us answer her call as we celebrate faith in the One who leads us into life.

### Opening Prayer:

We thank you, O Lord, that you give us love and peace through Christ Jesus; that you offer us the key to all spiritual knowledge through your Holy Spirit. For those who are in the midst of life's problems, grant your wisdom and insight from above. For those who are burdened with anxiety and fear, offer your wise assurance in times of need. For those facing decisions about family or career, bless them with your wisdom on high. For those entering a new chapter in their lives, be it the birth of children, taking new jobs, finding a place to live, or entering retirement, guide them on the proper path and bless them with a sense of peace. This we pray in the name and wisdom of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Prayer of Confession:

God of infinite mercy, when we neglect the humbleness of knowing our place in this world, forgive us; when we trade your peace and calls for unity for conflict and violence, forgive us; when we forsake our good character, to join those who scoff at your ways, forgive us; when we ignore your truth, and turn away from your wisdom, forgive us. Forgive us and heal us, Lord, that we may abide in your grace and your love forever. Amen.

## Words of Assurance

*Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God fills our souls with grace and wisdom. It is from this grace that we have hope. It is from this wisdom that we know God's love. It is from the living God that we find life and forgiveness.*

## Read Psalm 8

LORD, our Lord,  
    how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
    in the heavens.  
<sup>2</sup>Through the praise of children and infants  
    you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
    to silence the foe and the avenger.  
<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens,  
    the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
    which you have set in place,  
<sup>4</sup>what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
    human beings that you care for them?<sup>[c]</sup>  
<sup>5</sup>You have made them<sup>[d]</sup> a little lower than the angels<sup>[e]</sup>  
    and crowned them<sup>[f]</sup> with glory and honor.  
<sup>6</sup>You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
    you put everything under their<sup>[g]</sup> feet:  
<sup>7</sup>all flocks and herds,  
    and the animals of the wild,  
<sup>8</sup>the birds in the sky,  
    and the fish in the sea,  
    all that swim the paths of the seas.  
<sup>9</sup>LORD, our Lord,  
    how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Prayers of the People:

*Lord of mysteries, we admit that sometimes we are confused by the concept of Trinity. We can speak the words of Three-in-One, but our minds are boggled and confused. You are so great and your work is so awesome, that we try to find ways to express your work and witness in our lives. From before the beginning of time, you offered love and creative wisdom as you created all that is. In the person and*

*ministry of Jesus you taught us more clearly about your nature, love, and gave to us ways that we should live peacefully together. The Holy Spirit is offered as our guardian and guide, faithfully with us all our days. Full and complete is your love for us, your creation. Help us, again, to be more faithful to you. Give us opportunities to witness and serve. Heal and restore us. For we ask these things in the name of Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all. AMEN.*

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is The kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Read the Lesson: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Does not wisdom call out?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

<sup>2</sup> At the highest point along the way,  
where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

<sup>3</sup> beside the gate leading into the city,  
at the entrance, she cries aloud:

<sup>4</sup> "To you, O people, I call out;  
I raise my voice to all mankind.

<sup>22</sup> "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works,<sup>[a][b]</sup>  
before his deeds of old;

<sup>23</sup> I was formed long ages ago,  
at the very beginning, when the world came to be.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no watery depths, I was given birth,  
when there were no springs overflowing with water;

<sup>25</sup> before the mountains were settled in place,  
before the hills, I was given birth,

<sup>26</sup> before he made the world or its fields  
or any of the dust of the earth.

<sup>27</sup> I was there when he set the heavens in place,  
when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

<sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above  
and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

<sup>29</sup> when he gave the sea its boundary

so the waters would not overstep his command,  
and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

<sup>30</sup> Then I was constantly<sup>[c]</sup> at his side.

I was filled with delight day after day,  
rejoicing always in his presence,

<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world  
and delighting in mankind.

Read the Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we<sup>[b]</sup> boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we<sup>[c]</sup> also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Read the Gospel Lesson: John 16:12-15

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Message

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday which means we are looking at the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As we read this morning's Gospel we find Jesus talking to his disciples on the night before the crucifixion. At the very beginning, Jesus tells the disciples that he had so much more to tell them but that they were not ready to bear it all. For Jesus knew that the disciples were not yet ready. They understood so little and misunderstood even more. They were in serious need of more teaching and guidance. That's why, on the eve of his departure, he would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit. The Spirit would be their teacher and guide in his absence.

During my research for this sermon I read a perfect analogy of the Triune God. It goes like this: It was as if God the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit were on a relay team. God had run the first leg, speaking, teaching, and guiding his people directly from heaven. Then Jesus, coming to earth in the form of a man, took the baton and ran the second leg. He taught and guided his followers while in their midst. Now Jesus is ready to hand off the baton to the Holy Spirit, who is to run the third and final leg of the race. The Spirit was to come and continue to teach and guide the believers as he lives within them.

Today, our attention is drawn to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit, as part of the Trinity in our lives. It is the work of the spirit to keep the sparks of faith, the sparks of love, the sparks of God's presence in our lives going. Our fire of faith, our fire of commitment needs to be continually pumped up with the breath of the Holy Spirit.

We need to look at the work of God, the creator in our lives, the work of Jesus as redeemer in our lives, and the work of the Holy Spirit who brings God's presence, who brings God himself into our lives.

We are quite familiar with the work of God the creator, and Jesus the redeemer in our lives. We look all around us, and we are caught up in God's creating work. God is still creating, still molding, still forming his creation. As we discover more and more about the workings of this world, God is unfolding to us more and more of his creative power. The more we discover, the more we believe and trust in a creative force behind the wonders of creation. And we do not seem have any difficulty in understanding, and trusting in the saving work of Jesus. Sometimes, we get so engrossed in talking about Jesus and his redeeming efforts in our lives, that we forget about the creator, and the spirit who are also at work.

As Christians, we must see The Triune God as one and as three equals for if God the Father is held exclusively, we become Unitarians. If Christ is supreme, we over-rate him to the down-grating of the Father and the Spirit. And the same is true if the Spirit overshadows the father and son. There needs to be a balance in our thinking, in our relationship to the three parts of the trinity, to the three manifestations of God in this world.

And it is the work of the Spirit to keep reminding us of this balance between the three parts of the Trinity. Jesus says in our gospel lesson, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." The Spirit gathers us together in a community of faithful people so again and again we can be reminded of all the

truths we have learned about this God. We cannot understand everything, there are times we feel we cannot even understand a majority of God's truth, but we have been given the faith to accept, the trust to believe and the power and courage to stand by our convictions.

For some this is difficult because our minds, our souls want to understand everything so we can be in control. There is a mystery about God which I am willing to live with and I hope you are, too. We need some mystery, some holiness, something beyond ourselves in this world and God just that.

The Triune God, the many truths of God's dealings with us are difficult for us to understand. There is mystery about God, a mystery we just have to accept. The mystery of the Trinity is difficult, but the Holy Spirit of that Trinity leads us and through our faith, we accept, we believe that mystery.

How can God be three in One? How can God be the creator, and the redeeming Son, and the teaching Spirit? It is a mystery? I cannot understand it, but I believe in it. However, as we try to understand this idea of the Trinity, there will always remain a mystery. But the Spirit will continue to lead us and as we mature in faith, our understanding, our knowledge, our belief in the Trinity will mature also. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways." So it is important to stay faithful. It is important to be involved in the body of Christ, the church so that our faith may mature and grow.

In the Gospel Jesus said: The Holy Spirit would continue on with the disciples' development and teaching. The Spirit would do this by "guiding them into all truth." In fact, Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Spirit of truth." The Holy Spirit brings glory to the Father and to the Son. The Spirit does not seek his own glory. The Spirit does not seek his own followers. The Spirit does not seek to displace the Father or Jesus. No, the Holy Spirit seeks to serve and to serve well, and in so doing brings glory and honor to both the Father and the Son.

I think Michael M. Jones said it well when he wrote: "We could learn a valuable lesson from the Spirit's example of servanthood. As the Spirit serves both God and us, we should serve both God and others. As the Spirit often works behind the scenes, so we should work without seeking the limelight and without feeling jealous of others who may be more visible. As the Spirit teaches and guides believers to better understanding of the truth, so we should humbly teach and guide

younger, less experienced believers in how to walk with Christ. The essence of the Holy Spirit is service. Service to God, to Jesus, to believers, and to the world. Is that not also the essence of being a Christian?"

Let us pray: Gracious God, whom we have come to know as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, speak your word of truth to us. Keep speaking to us through the words of Scripture. Keep showing us your love and glory as revealed through the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Keep prodding us to open our hearts and minds to your will and truth for life through the power of your Spirit, that we might grow in faith and live as your redeemed disciples. This we ask in Christ's holy name. Amen.

**Benediction:**

*Go in peace, dear ones! Go with the knowledge that God, the Father, Jesus, God's Son, and the Holy Spirit are with you! Bring peace to all you meet. AMEN.*