

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

June 12, 2022 – Trinity Sunday

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 12.

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: MV 30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker (vv. 1, 2, 4)*

1. It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,
and by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2. It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,
and by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

4. It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation, a song the universe sings,
and by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Inviting Holy Light

We prepare ourselves for worship. We ground ourselves, supported, so loved every one of us, by our Creator. We feel our feet supported by the ground, our bodies supported by our chair, or sofa. Notice how your body feels this morning. Connect with your body. Feel. Breathe deeply. Life giving oxygen going in as you breathe in, breathe out. Creator... Christ... Spirit are here with us too. In gratitude and welcome we light this candle. *[lights candle]*

Hymn: VU 376 *Spirit of the Living God (vs. 1)*

1. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Nurturing Safe Space

We are all children of God. All are welcome in worship here – all backgrounds, gender identities – this space is open to all.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Here we are worshiping on the traditional land of the First Peoples. Across Turtle Island, Treaties were made between colonizers and those who had lived on the land for millennia. Here at St. Andrew's, we give thanks to the Wahnapiatae First Nation and to the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada. We have a responsibility implied by those ancient and sacred Treaties to share the caretaking of this land with our Indigenous neighbours. We give thanks for the current and historic contributions that First Nations and Métis people have made. May we journey and act together towards reconciliation.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's worship. Grounded in gratitude we worship together, in different spaces but together in Christ's unconditional, extravagant, love.

We are blessed today to have Ralph McIntosh as our music leader today, and Suzanne Nykilchyk is our Reader. Thank you to all who contribute their gifts so that we can worship, in sanctuary and include all who join us on YouTube.

Those at home or if you are new here, please note the credits at the end of this worship on screen with contact information – Facebook, our website, email, and our phone number. You can contact us in many ways to say hello and allow us to get to know you. We also have a Virtual Fellowship time is tonight at 7:00 with hosts Bev and Diane. Diane's email is also in the credits so you can request your Zoom link to Zoom Social Hour. Please join us. We'd love to see you there.

Call to Worship

Today God calls us, and we respond.

We respond with our prayers and our commitment. We respond with our hopes and our dreams. We respond with our hearts and our minds.

Today Christ welcomes us, and we enter.

We enter into this place of quiet and refuge. We enter into this time of reflection and vision. We enter into this space of inspiration and insight.

Today the Spirit is alive in our midst and we are thankful.

We are thankful for opportunities to serve. We are thankful for moments of personal renewal. We are thankful for invitations to share the goodness of life with one another.

Come be nourished by the fellowship that we share
and be thankful for all that God has done for us.

We come, open to a future hope today. We come, seeking to be a part of God's mission.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. On this Trinity Sunday, here we are, Holy God, to offer our heartfelt praise. You are the Creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy. You are Christ, the Word made flesh to set us free. You are the Spirit of truth and love, willing to dwell in us. What Mystery this is, Trinity. One God, Eternal Trinity, be near to us, the people formed in your image, and be close to the world your love brings to life. This we pray...

The Prayer Jesus Taught

... along with the traditional version of the Prayer that Jesus taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: VU 345 *Come, Children, Join to Sing (vs. 2)*

2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!

Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

Christ call his people friends,
the helpless he defends,

a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Time up Front

Trinity – it means three. In Christianity, it means God as, well three persons. Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit – all one. That is very difficult to understand. Three in one. So, on screen is one way we can look at it. (*Picture the three actors who played Spiderman in the recent movies.*) All become Spiderman, but Tobey is not Tom and Tom is not Andrew. They all are connected only because they all play the same character.

God - Jesus - Spirit

I bet that if I did a survey of our community here, if I asked: Who do you pray to? I bet that I would get a few different answers. Some people, when they pray, they say: Dear God. Others, they might say: Dear Jesus, help me. Others might say, "Come Holy Spirit, Come!"

What do you think? Weird? Cool?

(Dave sings "Gloria Patri") – This is music I learned in my childhood so well that I know it today. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end... Amen.

I wonder what God is like? Any ideas? Here's the thing, we really don't know for sure. But Christian tradition tells us that God is not alone. There is God, who created everything. There is the Son, Jesus, we feel his presence and call him Christ. And then the Holy Spirit – in the olden days we said Holy Ghost. All three... A mystery.

How about you say this after me:

Creator... Christ... Holy Spirit, all three... It is a wonderful mystery... Thank you God, Amen.

Hymn: VU 345 *Come, Children, Join to Sing* (vs. 3)

3. Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!

Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!

The whole creation o'er

let all God's love adore,

singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

Scripture Reading (Suzanne Nykilchyk)

Psalm 8 (Voices United p. 732)

There is a sense of awe at the heart of Psalm 8. As we remain seated and recite this song of praise responsively, you are invited to imagine in your mind's eye the most magnificent moment, the grandest sight you ever saw, or whatever inspires awe and wonder in you.

Refrain: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

From the lips of infants and children

your praises reach up to the heavens.

You have set up a stronghold against your foes,

To quell the enemy and the avenger.

Refrain: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their places,

what are we mortals that you should be mindful of us,

mere human beings that you should care for us?

Refrain: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

You have made us little less than divine,

and crowned us with glory and honour.

You have made us rulers over all your creation,

and put all things under our feet,

all sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild,

the birds of the air and the fish in the sea,

and all that make their way through the waters.

Refrain: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

John 15:26 – 16:4 (Common English Bible)

Now, I will read from the Gospel of John, here Jesus paints a picture of the eternal love flowing from the one who sends – the Creator - to the sent one – Christ - to the Spirit who dwells in us in abiding love and makes us love-bearers for, in, and with God. Love, very active, flowing among Creator, Christ and Spirit, sending us out into the world to bear witness to that Love in all we do.

“When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Creator — the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Creator — the Spirit will testify about me. You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said these things to you so that you won’t fall away. They will expel you from the synagogue. The time is coming when those who kill you will think that they are doing a service to God. They will do these things because they don’t know the Creator or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them.”

Let us pray: Wise, creating, and loving God – what a delight it is to be in your presence and to recognize your wondrous touch in all the world. Open us to discern you in usual and unusual places, and to celebrate your unfolding presence in our daily lives. Amen.

Message: *Could God be an “Us”?*

Message will be posted to the website once it becomes available.

Questions for Reflection:

1. When you pray, to “whom” do you address your prayer? Creator? Christ? Holy Spirit? All three?
2. When you pray this coming week, notice who you are addressing your prayers to. Wonder: Why?

Hymn VU 244 *Sing Your Praise to God Eternal*

1. Sing your praise to God eternal,
sing your praise to God the Son,
sing your praise to God the Spirit,
living and forever One.
God has made us, God has blessed us,
God has called us to be true.
God rules over all creation,
daily making all things new.
2. Join the praise of every creature,
sing with singing birds at dawn;
when the stars shine forth at nightfall,
hear their heavenly antiphon.
Praise God for the light of summer,
autumn glories, winter snows,
for the coming of the springtime
and the life of all that grows.
3. Praise God on our days of gladness
for the summons to rejoice;
praise God in our times of sadness
for the calm, consoling voice.
God our Maker, strong and loving,
Christ our Saviour, Leader, Lord,
living God, Creator Spirit,
be your holy name adored!

Offering Moment

Your donations will help St. Andrew's to partner with people who help the most vulnerable downtown. Giving to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service allows us collectively to reach out to Ukraine and other places needing love and community. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures.

Dedication Hymn: MV 191 *What Can I Do? (sing twice)*

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Dedication Prayer

Bless our offerings, Holy One. Bless these gifts that we share: gifts of time, talent, and treasure. May they reflect our shared joy in and hopes for this beautiful earth and its varied and gifted inhabitants. May our gifts reach through this place and out into the world to affirm the wonder and delight you feel in all of your creation. Amen.

Prayers of Community

God is here among us as we pray for our sisters and brothers all over the world. *(Pause)*

God is here among us as we pray for those we know, who are suffering in heart, mind, body, or spirit. *(Pause.)*

God is here among us as we remember those who have suffered from climate disasters. *(Pause.)*

God is here among us as we pray for our leaders, that they may act wisely. *(Pause.)*

God is here among us as we pray for ourselves and our hearts' needs, that we too might seek wisdom and follow God's leading. *(Pause.)*

God is here among us As we pray for those people, those situations, that weigh heavily on our hearts and minds – people near and dear to us, strangers who are in need of grace, healing, encouragement, hope. *(Pause.)*

God is here among us. May we open ourselves to what Creator God may bring forth within us, among us, today, tomorrow, and in the days to come. God is here among us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 20 *God of Still Waiting, vv. 1, 4*

1. God of still waiting,
God of deep longing,
God of the heart's true rest:
hold us in fathomless peace,
guard us with unwaning love.

4. Word true and faithful,
hope-bringing Spirit,
God of enfolding love:
come in your fulness and grace;
work through our lives for your praise.

Blessing

[outstretched arms]
The blessing of God;
who fashioned us to live with joy.

[hands over our hearts]

The blessing of Christ;
whose footsteps lead us into the Heart of Life.

[giving ourselves a giant hug]

And the blessing of Spirit's arms;
wrapped around us on our journey,

[hold up three fingers... sweep arm in front of us]

The blessing of the Holy Three go with every one of us,
and all of Creation, everywhere;
this day, this night, and always.

Blessing Hymn: MV 40 *Never Ending Joy, vs. 3*

Never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy.

3. God of every song, every story,
God of every captive set free,
God of every dance, every footstep,
you bring joy to me.

Never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy.

Postlude

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Opening Prayer written by Carol O'Neil. *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, page 30. Used with permission.

Time up Front written by Fay Rowland, found at reflectionaryfayrowland.files.wordpress.com

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