

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

June 4, 2023 – Trinity Sunday

Welcome to Worship

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

Email smiletoday9@proton.me to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: *Listen What I Say* by Roger Pile

God really loves us and wants us to shine.

If we turn to Jesus, everything will be fine.

When we're feeling lost, they can show us the way.

If we listen, things will turn out OK.

(clap, clap) God shows *(clap, clap)* the way.

(clap, clap) We listen *(clap clap)* OK.

1. God told Noah, go build me an Ark.

Build it quick, 'cause it's gonna get dark.

Noah said to God, I don't hear what you say.

I see no clouds, gonna do it my way.

2. Jesus told Simon, throw your nets over here.

The fish'll swim right in, everybody stand clear.

Simon said to Jesus, I don't think you're right.

The fish aren't biting, we've been trying all night.

God really loves us and wants us to shine.

If we turn to Jesus, everything will be fine.

When we're feeling lost, they can show us the way.

If we listen, things will turn out OK.

(clap, clap) God shows *(clap, clap)* the way.

(clap, clap) We listen *(clap clap)* OK.

3. God told Jonah, got to listen what I say.

To go to Nineveh, tell the people my way.

Jonah didn't listen, thought that God was a fail.

By the time he got it, he was inside the whale.

4. Jesus told the merchants, I have had enough.

My temple is for prayer, not for selling your stuff.

The merchants didn't listen, they wanted to stay.

Jesus turned their tables, then they all ran away.

God really loves us and wants us to shine.

If we turn to Jesus, everything will be fine.

When we're feeling lost, they can show us the way.

If we listen, things will turn out OK.

(clap, clap) God shows *(clap, clap)* the way.

(clap, clap) We listen *(clap clap)* OK.

5. God and Jesus speak to us every day.

They comfort when we hurt, rejoice when we play.

All we have to do is make the choice

To open our hearts, and listen to their voice.

God really loves us and wants us to shine.

If we turn to Jesus, everything will be fine.

When we're feeling lost, they can show us the way.
If we listen, things will turn out OK.

God really loves us and wants us to shine.
If we turn to Jesus, everything will be fine.
When we're feeling lost, they can show us the way.
If we listen, things will turn out OK.
(clap, clap) God shows (clap, clap) the way.
(clap, clap) We listen (clap clap) OK.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's on this Trinity Sunday. Social Hour is on Zoom every Sunday night at 7pm. To get your Zoom link, email Diane. Her email is in the credits at the end of this worship service, and on the YouTube page you are looking at if you are worshipping from home. The link was also sent with NEWS on Thursday.

Inviting Holy Light

We light this candle remembering that God created light, the Saviour loved light, and the Spirit offers us the fire to stir us from complacency. *[light candle]*

Sung Response: MV 137 Welcome Jesus, You Are Welcome, vs. 4

4. Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome;
let your loving light appear.
In our seeing, in our being,
Jesus, you are welcome here.

Nurturing Safe Space

Each and every one of us is welcome in this space. Whether you feel joy or sadness today, feeling together or scattered, confident or questioning, you are welcome. Whatever our age, or skin colour, or sexual identity, gender, age, we are, in all diverse ways that our minds understand our world, all of us are beloved children of God, and we are welcome. This is a come-as-you-are worship. I invite us into this worship space as watchers of the word, as participants in the struggle, as agents of God's light and love, as revelers in the joy, and as members of an inclusive body. Let us worship God together. Let us open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to the divine's loving presence among us.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Land is sacred and holy. Community is sacred and holy. Land and community are inextricably linked. We all know what it is like to go home, that such an idea is tied to place and people. We also know that home can mean more than one thing to us, with different feelings attached to each place that we call home. This land has been home to Indigenous people for thousands of years. It is also home to many others, but for far less time than that. We live here on land that has been home to some for thousands of years and home to others for a small fraction of those thousands of years. A treaty* was signed between the ancient dwellers on this land and the more recently arrived people. That treaty defines both rights and responsibilities for all who live here. We give thanks for the peaceful sharing of this land, the traditional land of the Atikemeksheng Anishnawbek and the Wahnapiitae First Nation people. We promise to abide by the responsibilities laid out in the treaty, which guides the relationship between all dwellers on this land. We acknowledge that we are treaty people, as we live, work, play, and worship on this land.

Call to Worship

God, whose imagination saw all
that is good, beautiful, and loving,
**continues to see us as beloved
children in the divine family.**

The Word which called forth
the stars in every universe,
**speaks to us of giving ourselves
through the baptismal life.**

The Spirit, which moved over creation,
breathing life into all things,
**fills us with peace and patience,
with hope and healing to share.**

Opening Prayer

O God, who makes us a reflection of the Trinity!
Gather us as Christ's Body.
Unite us in worship by your Spirit.
Show us how our diversity expands the opportunities for us to be creators of goodness.
Make us more aware of what it means to live in your image.
Then send us out, please, Holy Trinity, to reflect your unity and your diversity. Amen.

Hymn: MV 48 I Can Feel You Near Me God, vs. 1

1. I can feel you near me, God. I can feel you near.
Yes, I know you're with me God. I feel you here.
I can feel you near me, God. I can feel you near.
Yes, I know you're with me God. Heaven is here.

And I'll jump for joy. I'm singing Allelulia.
Jump for joy for you.
And I'll jump for joy. I'm singing Allelulia.
Jump for joy for you.

Time up Front

Ok, so I have done this before, but I'm going to do it again because some big issues in our lives need to be looked at again from time to time.

Which Spiderman did you like best? Tobey Maguire Tom Holland or Andrew Garfield? It's a hotly debated issue in popular culture. I'm an old person, so Tobey, the original Spidey is my favourite.

Spiderman has superpowers, right? So do the other Marvel comics superheroes, like Hulk and Iron Man and Black Widow... and the DC Comics heroes like Batman and Batwoman and Superman. They each have powers to save the world, but they need to work as a team. Sometimes you need a strong person, so you get the Hulk. But the Hulk, well he wants to crush everything, but we know that the Black Widow has a special relationship with him and can calm him down if he is getting too aggressive. My favourite has always been Spiderman. What about you? Ok, so different superpowers.

Let's consider the really weird word, "Trinity" – in old words Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I like Creator, Christ, and Spirit. They are kind of the same, they each have superpowers, specific roles, but they are one. God... the Creator, the one who watches over things. Christ ... Jesus was human, taught, and lived. He died like us, but just to remind us that he wasn't just human, he was resurrected from death, and appeared again. Weird, right. Just to remind us that he is also part of God. Then Spirit... we often say here, the Spirit goes with you. It is like the air we breathe. It goes with us, lets us know that we are not alone.

So, three names, but all part of one community. Trinity, it is really a mystery. It is not something I can say for certain, but we use the language of belief rather than something we can study in science. Trinity, the Community of God... Like those actors who played Spiderman, getting

together for a coffee one day. They all played one character, but Tobey, Tom and Andrew, very different actors with different skills.

Ok, this is a repeat after me prayer: Thank you, God, for reminding us that we are not alone... Mysteries like who you are, we each have our opinions... May you remind us that we are to work together,... just like you are community – Creator, Christ and Spirit. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Amen.

Hymn: MV 48 I Can Feel You Near Me God, vv. 1, 2

1. I can feel you near me, God. I can feel you near.
Yes, I know you're with me God. I feel you here.
I can feel you near me, God. I can feel you near.
Yes, I know you're with me God. Heaven is here.

And I'll jump for joy. I'm singing Allelulia.
Jump for joy for you.
And I'll jump for joy. I'm singing Allelulia.
Jump for joy for you.

2. I can feel you loving me. Yes, I know you care.
God, I know you're loving me always, everywhere.
I can feel you loving me. Yes, I know you care.
God, I know you're loving me. I know you're there.

And I'll jump for joy. I'm singing Allelulia.
Jump for joy for you.
And I'll jump for joy. I'm singing Allelulia.
Jump for joy for you.

Scripture Readings (Jill Bennett)

Let us pray: 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.

2 Corinthians 13: 11-14 (The Message)

And that's about it, friends. Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure. Greet one another with a holy embrace. All the brothers and sisters here say hello. The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

Matthew 28: 16-20 (The Message)

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

Let us pray: Holy God, Three-in-One, One-in-Three, draw us into your astounding message of new life. Help us to pay attention with inquisitiveness and curiosity. When we are confused about the details, open our hearts to the overall message. Stir within us a zeal to live out your truth. We ask, in the name of the one who taught with authority, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Message: *God in Community, Holy in One*

Offering Moment

Communion Hymn: *MV 20 God of Still Waiting, vv. 1, 2*

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.
2. Spirit of promise, Spirit of purpose,
Spirit of ceaseless prayer:
bathe us in life full and free,
kindle our wonder and hope.

Dedication Prayer

We have gathered in the name of the One who moves around and within us, the One who breathes life into us as individuals and into this community, and the One who brings warmth, hope, and love. In gratitude for the One at work in our lives, we present our offering.

Sacrament of Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God in Community be with you!

And also with you!

May the Holy Three who are One be in your hearts.

May we be filled with imagination, with words, with life itself.

Let us sing our praises to God who makes us one with all people.

We join all creation in singing glad songs to our God.

You poured your imagination into chaos,
stirring all your dreams and hopes and,
placing them on that palette called your heart,
began to paint on the blank canvas of creation,
azure for clear morning skies,
bright yellows for marigolds,
deep green for grass in the meadows,
red and orange tickling lazy sunsets.

Simply, faithfully, graciously, all
was offered to those created in your image,
but we preferred the absence of color in sin,
and would paint our lives in death's greyness.

You sent prophets and artists,
singers and poets, to point up
back to your beauty and art,
but we preferred the bleak mirages
offered by temptation and foolishness.

Finally, you appealed to your Word
to bring us the good news
of your salvific heart.

With those who see and worship,
as well as those who doubt and despair,
we offer our songs of praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Majestic Name.

All creation joins in praising your goodness and wonder.

Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who is with us to the end.
Hosanna in the highest!

Word of justice and love,
you pointed to the Holy One
in every word and deed, even
as God blessed your every step and breath.

A baby,
you showed us God's vulnerability;
a young child,
you taught us to draw closer to God;
a storyteller,
you reminded us of the One
who would run to scoop us up
in arms of love and welcome;
a lover,
you enter into sin's embrace,
taking the kiss death intended for us,
so that, as resurrection's hope,
you offer us life with you forever.

As we struggle to understand such a gift,
as we seek to live such faithfulness,
we live in that mystery called faith:

Christ died, your Word silenced by the world;
Christ was raised, your Word singing of resurrection joy;
Christ will come, the Word which will call us home to you.

Together we remember that vision of God's reign
shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends,
with saints and sinners,
with crowds of thousands on the hillside,
and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died,
he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks,
he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
he passed it among them, saying:

"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Gesture to Bread

Gesture to Chalice

Prayers of Community

Dancing God, spin us around and teach us your rhythms, for we can't remember the moves and feel woefully out of place. In the beginning, you glided over chaos and drew close to the waters. You sprang and leapt with creativity, and we long to find your courage. You delighted in all that you made and called everything good. We summon your grace in this moment of our discipleship. As we try to imagine all that we might do together to make disciples, remind us again that you are with every one of us. *[Silence]*

Assure us, God of disciples and seekers, that we are part of your ongoing motion that is not yet finished. We are invited into your dance again. We are the work of your fingers and the movements of your feet. Move us, O God, to offer this goodness to ourselves and this community, to reach outside ourselves and invite others into the dance. There is so much need for goodness. These are the things we lift to you in prayer this day.

Now, in this silence, we offer to you, Creator, our own personal prayers, for ourselves, for people near to us or people far, lifting up celebrations as well as prayers of deep concern from our hearts.
[Silence]

Let there be light and goodness in all these things. We pray in your most majestic name. Amen.

And so we pray this along with a modern version of the Prayer that Jesus taught...

Prayer that Jesus Taught

Our Father, Perfect Love, We turn again to You. Guide us; help us to love, so that Your Will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day that which we need. Fill us with hope and trust. Help us to forgive our brothers and sisters (and ourselves as well); and to look on them as you look on us. Give us strength to resist temptation. When we are tempted, let us choose peace. Deliver us from our fears. For what You love is safe. And Your love remains forever and always. Amen.

Like a storm, you blew over creation's oceans;
with a gust, you blow open our shuttered souls;
with a light breath, you give us life, so now,
Breath of God, Spirit of all that exists,
touch the simple gifts of the bread and the cup
with the sacredness of your peace,
and stir us all from our fear and apathy.

The bread which is broken is filled with your strength,
so that we can go and offer freedom to the prisoner,
so that we can breathe hope into our dying neighborhoods,
so that we can be peace for an angry world.

The cup is never drained of your grace,
so that we may silence all hatred,
so that we might put evil in the past,
so that we might renew your fragile creation.

And when we are gathered in that place
to which you will direct us at the end of time,
we will join with our sisters and brothers
in forever praising your glory, your love,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen

These are the Gifts of God, for the people of God. Please come, for all is ready.
Bread for the Journey. Christ's Covenant, may we be refreshed.

Choir Anthem

We Partake in Communion

Prayer after Communion

And when we are gathered in that place to which you will direct us at the end of time, we will join with our sisters and brothers in forever praising your glory, your love, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 82 *Bathe Me in Your Light*

1. Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator:
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

2. Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

2. Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Blessing

Created and called to be faithful stewards,
we are sent forth by our God.

**We will take all that is good to places of brokenness,
all that is beautiful to those who live in despair.**

Called and commissioned to be faithful disciples,
we are sent forth by Jesus, Word of hope.

**We follow Jesus to every place he would lead us,
to every person who will bless us.**

Called and filled with the very breath of peace,
we are sent forth by the Spirit, God's grace.

**We will join the Spirit in bringing life where there is fear,
in offering love where hate seeks to take hold.**

**And now, the peace of creation's Imagination,
the peace of grace's Word,
the peace of hope's Spirit,
and the deep, deep peace
of God in Community, Holy in One,
be with you this day and for always. Amen.**

Blessing Hymn: VU 510 *We Have this Ministry, vs. 1*

We have this ministry and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.

We have this ministry O God, receive our living.

Postlude

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Time up Front from

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The Lord's Prayer written by Peter M. Parr. © 2020, www.thingstoremember.org.uk/blog/category/lords-prayer

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