

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 7, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
TRINITY SUNDAY

June 7, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Trinity Sunday, a day to reflect upon the sacred mystery of one God being revealed in three persons, and a day of transition from the Easter season and the celebration of Pentecost to what is called Ordinary Time. The liturgical color is white since this is a day to celebrate the many gracious acts of the triune God, the texts all point to the mystery of the Trinity, and the opening hymn enables us to offer praise to the one God revealed in three persons. The sermon is rooted in the familiar creation account of Genesis 1 in which the text claims that men and women are made in the image of God. How might this claim shape the way we treat one another in this time of much unrest? If every other person we see — regardless of race, gender, or anything else — is made in the image of God and thus reflects a part of God's character, then our love for that person takes on much greater significance. In our current situation as a nation, making further progress toward racial equality is a social need with political implications. But from a Christian perspective, there is something more basic at stake. How we love our neighbor is a part of how we love God. We dare not discriminate, devalue our brother or sister, and in the process, offend the God we claim to love and serve. As there is unity in the very being of God — *one* God in *three* persons — God desires unity among us as God's people.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Trey Davis

The Prelude

"The Church's One Foundation"
Mary Alice Seals, piano

arr. Anna Laura Page

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Psalm 8

LEADER: O Lord, our God how majestic is your name in all the earth!

PEOPLE: **You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

LEADER: you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

PEOPLE: **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;**

LEADER: what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

PEOPLE: **Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**

LEADER: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

PEOPLE: **all sheep and oxen, and also beasts of the field,**

LEADER: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

PEOPLE: **O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful flesh thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 1:1—2:3

Leah Reed

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

²⁹God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Prayer of Intercession (responsive) ¹

Christopher Chapman

LEADER: Remembering that in his life, passion and death Jesus identified with the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized in society, let us join in a litany of intercession for all for whom Christ suffered and died and all for whom he lives today. Let us pray for all who commit themselves to God's mission to establish human relationships based upon freedom and justice. Save us from indifference and give us courage to work for justice and responsible freedom.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

LEADER: We pray for the affluent in developed and developing countries that they may not succumb to materialism. Help us to discover our worth in terms of what we can become as persons rather than in what we own or consume.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

LEADER: We pray for countries where there is exploitation of natural resources, where the earth is desecrated to satisfy the lust for profit. Save us from misusing what you have given for all to share.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

LEADER: We pray for all minority communities faced with the loss of their cultural identity. Help us to respect each person's way of life.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

LEADER: We pray for all who have suffered injustice in recent days — for persons of color who have been devalued, mistreated, and killed; for business owners who have had property vandalized and destroyed; for noble law enforcement personnel who have endured hardship and ridicule because of the hateful actions of a few. Help us to work for change — in systems and structures insidiously poisoned by racism — but also in our own hearts.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

LEADER: We pray for refugees forcibly uprooted from their homeland to live as aliens in other lands. Help us to find human solutions to this human tragedy.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

LEADER: We pray for all peoples separated from one another because of religious or political differences. Help us to work for tolerance, dialogue and good will among peoples of differing faiths and political convictions.

PEOPLE: **O God of the ever-present crosses, help your servants.**

The Morning Prayer

The 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Gospel

Matthew 28:16–20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

"Seeing a Part of God in Each Other"

Christopher Chapman

The Hymn of Discipleship

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" ²

HYFRYDOL

God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in your image, would a true reflection be
of your justice, grace, and mercy, and the truth that makes us free.
You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole,
healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.
God, your will is still creating, calling us to life made new,
now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare to do.
Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving care,
thus new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

The Musical Meditation

“Morning Has Broken”
Anita Burroughs-Price, harp

arr. Anita Burroughs-Price

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

The Postlude

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
Mary Alice Seals, piano

arr. Anna Laura Page

¹ From *Worship Handbook of the 7th Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia, Bangalore, 1981*; adapt., © 1981 Christian Conference of Asia, Pak Tin Village, Mei Tin Road, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.

² Words: © 1978, Jane Parker Huber, altered and © 1987 *A Singing Faith*, Westminster Press. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved. The tune is in the public domain.

The tune and text to “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” are in the public domain.

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Sympathy to **Betty Griffin** on the death of her husband **Newton Griffin** on Saturday, May 23.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. As of May 26, we have received \$1,910 toward our goal of \$10,000.

All church activities are cancelled until further notice.