

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 30, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
TRINITY SUNDAY

May 30, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Trinity Sunday, a day of transition from the Easter Season and the celebration of Pentecost into what is often called “ordinary time” which ends with the Reign of Christ Sunday in late November. Trinity Sunday presents an opportunity to reflect upon the sacred mystery of God being revealed in three persons. This mystery is not refined into the form of a doctrine in scripture, but many texts, including those we have read today, point to the reality that people experience God in the three persons. Over time the church concludes that the way we experience God reflects the very nature of God. Thus, we lift up hymns of praise to the triune God, we experience God’s presence in different ways, and we listen for God’s voice speaking to us. The sermon explores the familiar reading from John 3 in which a Jewish leader named Nicodemus seeks out the second person of the Trinity who teaches him about the third person while referencing the first person. The story reflects the kind of experience that leads to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, but it also offers a model for how we might address the longing for more than we often experience. Like Nicodemus, we can name our yearning and seek to address it in the presence of the triune God.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

The Prelude

“Chorale Prelude on *Nicaea*”
Sue Crocker, organ

Healey Willan

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)

from Psalm 29

LEADER: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

PEOPLE: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God’s name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

LEADER: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

PEOPLE: **The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

LEADER: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign forever.

PEOPLE: **May the Lord give strength to God’s people! May the Lord bless God’s people with peace.**

The Invocation

Michael Hood

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!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 6:1–8

Rhonda Lowe

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head,
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place,

born of his Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our
 for we have known it, the love of God out - poured; now
 called to o - bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he
 formed in great weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we

cor - ner - stone is Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O
 let us learn how to re - turn the gift of love once given: O
 wills us be a fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O
 die a - lone, for on its own each em - ber los - es fire: yet

let us live trans - par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es Heaven.
 let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Affirmation of Faith (unison) “I Bind unto Myself Today”

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three.

I bind this day to me forever by power of faith Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan river, his death on the cross for my salvation;
his bursting from the spiced tomb, his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to harken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the Word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me;
Christ to comfort and restore me;
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three,
of whom all nature hath creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word;
praise to the God of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord!

*St. Patrick, c. 430;
paraphrased, Cecil Frances Alexander, 1889*

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

Unison

1. Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me, Christ be -
 2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3. Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me, Christ be on
 4. Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me, Christ be -

hind me - king of my heart; Christ with - in me,
 round me - shield in the strife; Christ in my sleep - ing,
 all tongues tell - ing of me; Christ be the vi - sion
 hind me - king of my heart; Christ with - in me,

Christ be - low me, Christ a - bove me - nev - er to part.
 Christ in my sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing - light of my life.
 in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.
 Christ be - low me, Christ a - bove me - nev - er to part.

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

“Choral Prelude on *Darwall*”
Sue Crocker, organ

Healey Willan

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The Deacon on Call is Rhonda Lowe. A 32-year member, Rhonda has served as pianist for the Children’s and Youth Choirs and is a member of the Finance Committee, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Sharing Thoughts Sunday School Class. Her husband is Dennis Francis and she has one step-daughter, Morgan Koch.

Our acolytes today are Jed and Macon David.

The banner for today’s worship service is placed in honor of all our teachers by the Everett Miller – Friendship Sunday School class with a donation made to the Day Mission Fund.

Sympathy to Brad Wilson on the May 23 death of his mother, Irene Wilson.

Dr. Chapman will be on vacation from May 31 through June 20. In his absence, the high school graduates will lead worship on June 6, Leah Reed will preach on June 13, and Michael Hood will preach on June 20.

With our return to in-person services, if you would like to donate flowers or designate your selection of our banners with a donation to the Day Mission Fund, please contact Myra Brickell at 919-812-6680 or myrabrickell@gmail.com.

Calendar Highlights • May 30–June 5, 2021

Sunday, May 30

- 9:00 Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School (Zoom)
- 9:30 High School Sunday School (Carter yard)
- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 11:00 Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 2:00 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Church parking lot)

Monday, May 31 *Memorial Day*

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, June 1

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 2

- 4:00 ITC Staff Recognition Dinner/Celebration (Lobby)
- 4:30 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, June 3

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 7:30 College Group (Zoom)

Sun, June 6 *Senior Sunday*

- 9:00 EMF Sunday School (Zoom)
- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
7th & 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 11:00 Worship (S & YouTube)