

Before We Worship...

If this were “normal,”
 and we were gathering together at 1602 Goliad on Sunday, June 7th,
 it’d be safe to assume that we...
 had seen last night’s news or read the morning paper
 knew if it would rain today or if our cities were on fire
 swapped caring stories about Peggy’s son’s surgery (“successful!”)
 quietly hoped / prayed that none of us “tested positive”
 we’d have a shared context for worship
 a shared “calendar,” as it were. We’d be on the same “calendar” page,
 we’d “know what day it was... and what was going on!”

It’s not “normal,” not at all!
 and, as I write this on Tuesday night late,
 it’s almost impossible for me to anticipate what our Sunday world’ll be like!

What I do know is based on a different “calendar” — Our Liturgical Calendar:
 That calendar proclaims that this is the Week After Pentecost!

“OK, let’s go to worship, the week after Pentecost!” those first disciples said to each other!
 What in the world was that like for those first disciples?

<https://youtu.be/mghpgfBNFbc>

“This is the Day which the Lord has Made... Let’s Rejoice and Be Glad in It!”

If you just said that with me, then worship has just begun!
 Regardless of fancy props, proper language, expensive sacrifices... God is Calling Us!

**Welcome to
 Crestholme Presbyterian Church
 and our “Worship Together... from Home” Kit**

**June 7, 2020
 The Sunday We Call “Trinity Sunday”**

And This is Our Worship from Home “Kit”

Gather for Worship

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Hallelujah”

<https://youtu.be/LRP8d7hhpoQ>

Let Leonard Cohen’s haunting melody and redeeming words...
 quiet our hearts, open our imaginations, kindle our curiosity...
 and usher us into the presence of Mystery!
 It’s Trinity Sunday!



**GOD IS CALLING US TO WORSHIP...
AND INVITING US TO LIVE
INTO THE MYSTERIES OF PRESENCE, PROMISE AND PEACE**

Join me, this Trinity Sunday, in a worshipful dance...

<https://youtu.be/YV15StV6TK0>

... let God simply dance into your life

... let go of everything you thought you were sure of... about "the Trinity"
and, become a part of God's transforming Divine Dance!

"Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" mean that
the Mystery Beyond Us,
the Mystery Among Us,
and the Mystery Within Us
are All the Same Mystery!

Thus, "the Trinity" is a way of saying something
about us

and the way we experience God.

"The Trinity" is also a way of saying something
about God

and the way God is within Himself.

God does not need Creation in order to have something to love,
because within God, love happens, love simply is.

In other words, the Love God Is is Love,
not as a Noun, but as a Verb!

Not "a thing" but an "energy," a "reaching out and embracing!"

Ours is an active, loving God. A bold loving Verb. And that changes everything!

OPENING SING-A-LONG HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy!" Blue, # 138
<https://youtu.be/j5MEoJZo38M>

Go Ahead, Stand Up! (No one's watching!) "Take a Deep Breath!" Sing Out!

OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION OUR LETTING GO

"I like simple formulas!" Nope! Not helpful, any more!

"And clear — "decently and in order" — doctrines." Nope! That fussy stuff is over!

"My theological precision... enables me to feel that "I'm in charge!" That's the problem!

"I like to name things, label them "right!" or "wrong," control my world." Another problem!

"I have a hard time with ever-shifting Mystery!" Welcome to the real world!

"Whew, Wow... REALLY? All my old "ways" and "securities..." are "finished and gone"?

Make room... for a bigger dancing God! The God of the Bible!

GOD'S ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

II Corinthians 5. 17

Friends, trust the Good News of the Gospel:

"Anyone who is in Christ is becoming a new creation.

The old life has gone, a new life is beginning.

In Jesus Christ, we are loved and made whole."

Hear the Word of God



OUR SYMBOLIC "PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION" OR, "GET READY!"

Turn off your phone.
Pour another cup of coffee.
Take a deep breath... and, look out!

—
It's Trinity Sunday!
God's inviting you to dance!

THE TRINITY STORY — A Life-Time of Experiences

This ancient Russian icon is...
"The Hospitality of Abraham,"
but, look closely: See who's there?
Three Mysterious Guests... as "The
Trinity"!

Has the Bible been giving us hints,
imaginative portals into this central,
crucial Mystery, all along?

This icon is.
So is the grab-bag of this morning's
texts.

Let's look again, let's read, again; with
new "Pentecost Promise" eyes and
trust.

Created by Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev, in the fifteenth century, it's all there!:

Three. Three Primary colors — Gold, the Father. Blue, the Human. Green, the Living Spirit. Jesus, "the Blue man" and his two fingers — spirit and matter, divinity and humanity: together! Notice the peculiar square box on the front of the table: Some insightful, playful art historians and Trinity-theologians suggest that a mirror had been glued there. To see yourself. To see yourself in the picture. To see yourself within the Trinity! Is that good, or what!

Here are some more traditional "windows" into the Mystery:

Genesis 1 — "In the Beginning, God (plural)..." Genesis 18 and the Three Guests

Psalm 8 — "When I look to the heavens..."

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=MSG>

Matthew 28. 18 — 20. Jesus Great Commission. Our Great Doubt! And a Formula!

Genesis 2 — Naming the Animals. Exodus 3 — a Burning Bush, and the UnNamed God's Call...

John 1 — "In the beginning was... the Relationship...!"



A PLAYFUL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN...

<https://youtu.be/Vn9BUfUCL4I>

... and you thought you were always right! That your perspective was the only right one!

AND THE CHILD IN EACH OF US...

<https://youtu.be/KQLfgaUoQCw>

So much for “decently and in order” !

Is it really OK to self-consciously break out into uproarious laughter? In Church! Yup!!

A KALEIDOSCOPE OF IMAGES AND EXPERIENCES — “EVERYTHING IS HOLY, NOW!”

This isn't a “sermon,”

and I sure as heck don't have the definitive “last word” on the Trinity to offer... !

No traditional, “three points and a poem!”

My purpose is not to make things neat, but, rather, to make the Mystery a bit more intriguing!

So, here's a series of vignettes, a bag of Tom-wonderings... almost as though we're looking through an ever-changing kaleidoscope of images, sorting out a box full of puzzle pieces, unravelling the threads of Joseph's “coat of many colors” and ending up with a rainbow

First: a simple whimsically offered historical reminder:

IS IT TRUE THAT
THE WORD
“TRINITY” ISN'T
IN THE BIBLE?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

BOTH THE *THREE PERSONS OF
GOD* AND THE CONFESSION THAT
GOD IS ONE ARE IN THE BIBLE.
BUT IT TAKES *FOUR*
CENTURIES* TO
SORT OUT THE
RELATIONSHIP.



*1ST COUNCIL OF NICEA - 325

WOW! THAT GIVES
NEW MEANING TO...
“IT'S COMPLICATED!”



2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

© WETZSTEIN® 20-06-03

... truth, from my two favorite talking, theologically-savvy, sheep: the “AgnusDay”

Often our best theology is expressed... in an exuberant hymn of praise:

<https://youtu.be/n9cPMSTFObl>

Let that begin to set the stage... for our spiritual — prayerful playful — growth!

Here's a little "time with Tom" —

<https://youtu.be/Sjxsd-G-nEg>

A **correction**: I got the Robert Farrar Capon quotation backwards: It should be: "A human trying to describe God is like an oyster trying to describe a ballerina!"



The Trinity...

... Here's a traditional visual reminder:



And, here's a less-traditional suggestion:

And, of course, here's the Trinity — again, as though for the first time — in a new hymn:

<https://youtu.be/treES3dAILE>

That Russian icon? Both Abraham's (see his home, in the background?) guests and the Trinity-at-the-Table... and us, we're there, in the mirror, at the table, And, at Our Lord's Table. Every Table is our Lord's Table! And, yes, that's a chalice!

The dance is just beginning! Amen.

Respond in Love and Service

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Sometimes, we "affirm our faith" with a classic creed, sometimes with a contemporary hymn, sometime with an "I will do this...!" promise. Today, with a Fr. Richard Rohr prayer:

"God for us, we call You Father.
 God alongside us, we call You Jesus.
 God within us, we call You Holy Spirit.
 You are the eternal mystery that
 enables
 enfolds
 and enlivens all things.
 Even us and even me.

Every name falls short of Your Goodness and Greatness.

We can only see Who You are in what is.

We ask for such perfect seeing —

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

Amen. (So be it!)"

OUR RESPONSE IN A HYMN "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

https://youtu.be/1cXrvx_4uQ8

Blue, # 134

This is an ol' favorite of mine, but I usually sing it to the tune "Tallis Canon." Blue, # 535
 Today, I'll just listen! And let the St. Olaf Choir (you knew I'd get them in, somewhere!)
 do the singing for all of us!

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"In Jesus' name, Live your Gifts! In Jesus' name, Give your Gifts!"

Please, mail your gifts, tithes, offerings and pledges to the church:
 Crestholme Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 23919. SA TX 78223-0901



Pentecost was last Sunday,
 but it's not too late to participate in our annual
 Pentecost Special Offering!

IF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS AND SERVICE IN THE WORLD IS OUR, "THANK YOU!" TO GOD,

HOW DOES GOD SAY, "THANK YOU!" BACK TO US? See what Jesus says to us: Luke 12. 44

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND SERVE

- Bake another favorite loaf. Give it — anonymously! — to another Neighbor.
- Surprise an "essential worker" with a smiling compliment.
- Call a forgotten loved one "out of the blue"! Banish the "blues"!
- "Fast" on a Friday. At least, dessert. Give the equivalent in cash to The Food Pantry.

THE PEOPLES' PRAYERS

If prayer is a Holy Dialogue — a two-way conversation — what if the starting
 point and promise of God's prayer to you... went something like this:

<https://youtu.be/BumCkswUUDA>

Our Prayer to God: "Heal Our Land"

Red, # 800

<https://youtu.be/Zlfj9vRFg5U>

Be an instrument of God's healing. Sing it. Pray it. And, then, Do it!
 The Economic Hurt. The Covid-19 Hurt. The Racism Hurt. Mine's a long list....
 And then add your prayers, and: **"Lord, In Your Mercy... Hear Our Prayer!"**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

From our Choir's CD: Track 15

<http://www.crestholmeperc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/15-The-Lords-Prayer.mp3>

CLOSING HYMN

"God Is Here!" (and everywhere!)

Blue, # 461

<https://youtu.be/QbkNXq71iis>

BENEDICTION

Today

"Today is ours, let's live it. And love is strong, let's give it.

A song can help, let's sing it.

And peace is dear, let's bring it. The past is gone, don't rue it.

Our work is here, let's do it.

Our world is wrong, let's right it. The battle hard, let's fight it.

The road is rough, let's clear it.

The future vast, don't fear it. Is faith asleep? Let's wake it. Today is ours! Let's take it!"

POSTLUDE <https://youtu.be/TascswZPj8U> and: <https://youtu.be/br-PBWhdMiU>

The Trinity... A Pattern for God's Gracious Love... for the Whole World
 from classic intricate: to celtic simple:



**God
 Be
 With You!
 Amen!**



**The End of Worship
 The Beginning of Service**

**Crestholme Presbyterian Church
 1602 Goliad Road San Antonio TX 78223**

210 — 333 — 1301

Mailing Address: POBox 23919 SA TX 78223-0901

Email: crestholmepc@satx.rr.com

Web Site: www.crestholmepc.com

Thank you...

for being a part of the Crestholme's
 compassionate community!
 for staying home and taking care!
 for all your prayers, your gifts,
 all your sharing and serving!

If you've made it this far, I have a favor / request:

When we gather for worship together, in the sanctuary,
 your feedback is both pretty direct and very helpful.
 But with this "at home" style... well....
 it's neither that easy or clear.

We want your feedback, please:

- do you wait till 11 am on Sunday...
 and then "worship" all at once?
- do you open it the minute you get it and... ___begin?
- do you spread the pieces out over several hours or days?
- what "works"? What doesn't? What helps? What hinders... your worship?

Please — your feedback, suggestions, ideas and requests:
 Tom tjheger@flash.net. 210 237 8182

Thanks! Amen!

