

June 4, 2023
Trinity Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "All things bright and beautiful" John Rutter. Words by Mrs. C. F. Alexander

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

Be still and know,

**that the One who called forth the dry land
from the waters of creation calls us here.**

Be still and know,

**that the One who walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee
walks with us through the storms of life.**

Be still and know,

**that the One who held back the waters of the Red Sea
is the wind beneath our wings.**

Know that the LORD is one, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Let us worship the LORD our God.

Hymn: VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer (*unison*)

Blessed are you, O Lord, Creator of heaven and earth. You are the very ground of our being; the ground upon which we walk. Grant us courage and strength to walk your difficult Way. Grant us peace and surety to let go of our fears. Grant us certainty in our worth to you, that we might work to nurture understanding and heal the wounds and divisions of this world of yours. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "I Will Joyfully Sing" Psalm 59:16 Mary McDonald

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn MV 30 "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

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.

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.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

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.

Psalm 8

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!

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So 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. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then 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. The 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. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And 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, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So 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. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And 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. God 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.

Then God said, "Let us make humans 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."

So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God 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." God 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. And 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. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The other readings for this week are: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Meditation: "The Challenge of Scripture"

Hymn VU 276 "O God Who Shaped Creation"

O God who shaped creation at earth's chaotic dawn,
your word of power was spoken, and lo! the dark was gone!
You framed us in your image, you brought us into birth,
you blessed our infant footsteps and shared your splendoured earth.

O God, with pain and anguish a mother sees her child
embark on deadend pathways, alluring, but defiled;
so too your heart is broken when hate and lust increase,
when worlds you birthed and nurtured spurn ways that lead to peace.

Although your heart is broken when people scorn your ways,
you never cease your searching through evil's tangled maze;
and when we cease our running, your joys, O God, abound
as of a searching woman when treasured coin is found.

In mercy and compassion your goodness is revealed;
with tenderness you touch us, and broken hearts are healed.
You claim us as your children, you strip our prideful shame;
with freedom born of mercy we bless your holy name!

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of the Universe, look upon us this day, in love, and with mercy. You created this awesome world that we live in. You molded it and shaped it into a beautiful work of art, and we are blessed to enjoy it. You created all growing things: the trees and the flowers to delight our eyes and the grain, the fruit, and the vegetables to nourish our bodies. And you, Almighty God, created not only the world, but space for us to explore and to challenge our sense of adventure. How wonderful you are.

Many things, O God, you have kept a mystery to us – the gift of love, of death, of life after death, and the mystery of your redeeming grace. Many things we can prove through science, and then you challenge us to step out in faith, to believe in you and your love, grace, and mercy toward us. Give us courage, loving God, to step out in faith and trust in that wonderful love.

God of every day, our hearts are concerned for the needs of our friends and neighbours, both near and far. Many are lonely and hurting from emotional pain. Many are suffering from spiritual starvation. Many are ill, and some in hospital. God of miracles, hear those we lift up to you at this time: the friends and families of Anne Haycock and the Rev. Dr. Grafton Antone, who mourn their deaths, and for those who are ill, their loved ones and caregivers

and those known in the silence of our hearts.... Around the world there are many more who are suffering from the ravages of war and famine and natural disaster, and those whose lives have been threatened because of their beliefs. Have mercy and deliver each one in their time of trouble. This week we pray especially for the people of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Eswatini

Challenging God, stir us each day to seek justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ, who taught us to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God created us in God's own image, made us stewards of creation – tasked with the responsibility of caring for creation. As part of our response to be good stewards of creation, our denomination has set a goal of reducing our carbon footprint across the country by 80 percent by 2030. It will take serious commitment, imagination, hard work, grants, and, of course, money to meet this goal. Our tithes and offerings will now be accepted, via CanadaHelps and Canada Post, the offering plate or the mailslot.

Offertory Hymn VU 217 “All Creatures of Our God and King” vs. 5

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayer of Dedication

God, please see the gifts that we offer to you, your church, and for the benefit of your creation, and say that they are good. Bless these gifts, so that good may be done with them. Restore your image in us as we take up the responsibility you gave us of stewardship of your creation. Amen.

Hymn VU 217 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
 hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
 sing praises, sing praises,
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
 sing praises, hallelujah!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
 sing praises, sing praises,
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
 sing praises, hallelujah!

The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part:
 sing praises, hallelujah!

All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
 sing praises, hallelujah!

Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Commissioning and Benediction

May the God who dwells beyond us,
the God who dwells among us,
the God who calls us to dwell together in peace,
keep us and bless us, this day and always.
Amen

Response: "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there supporting us with love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude: "Come , Thou Almighty King" Felice de Giardini. Arr. Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Coming Services

June 11 Union Outdoor Service and Sunday School closing with potluck following
July 9 Union Outdoor Service with potluck following

DORCHESTER:

Today we are blessed to have the Rajeh family: Yousef and Ruba, and their children Lana and Jawad, join us for worship and a time of fellowship following the service. Welcome. Assalam alaikam. Peace be with you.

UNION:

The Outreach Focus for the months of May and June is: Second Stage Housing.

Wish list: Antiseptic cleaner, Lysol spray or wipes, New Toilet plungers, New Toilet brushes
Liquid hand soap, Dish soap. Dryer sheets, Paper towels, Toilet paper

Stone Church Cruise Nights - Last Monday of the Month

June 26, July 31, August 28, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Everyone Welcome. Custom - Rods – Classics - Muscle Cars - Trucks

Special Interest & Vintage vehicles of all kinds

Hot Beef-on-a bun, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, Cold Drinks

NB In case of bad weather, come anyway because "rain or shine" we will be serving the beef-on-a-bun!!!

Lectionary Readings for next week:

(June 11, Second after Pentecost, Proper 5)

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26