

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, May 30, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
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**Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith**

**Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller**

**Grace Pianist: Cheryl Copeman**

**Office Administrator: Jackie Misner-Hilton**

**Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM**

**Licensed Lay Worship Leader: Heather King**

**Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini**

**Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM**

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**Office Hours 9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)**

May 30, 2021

## Trinity Sunday

### We Gather to Worship

#### Land Acknowledgement

#### Welcome and Announcements

Joke – A young woman from the city was visiting the farm. This was her first visit to the farm and she was simply fascinated by the animals. She had never seen many of them before. Therefore, it was not unusual when she blurted out, “What a strange-looking cow. But why hasn’t she any horns?”

The farmer explained, “Well, you see, some cows are born without horns and never have any. Others shed theirs, and some we dehorn. And some breeds aren’t supposed to have horns at all. But the reason this cow hasn’t got any horns is because she ain’t a cow...she’s a horse!”

#### Call to Worship

The Spirit in me

**greet the Spirit in you.**

May peace—

**deep peace—**

divine peace—

**be within us all.**

May this moment be a “kingdom moment”

**when we know,**

**with all that we are,**

**that God is present,**

with us, in us, around us.

**With that knowledge,**

**as people of Christ,**

**we worship God.**

*Richard Bott, Dunbar Ryerson P.C., Vancouver, B.C.*

## **Hymn – VU #315 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty SH Disc 2 #10**

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!

### **Opening Prayer**

Dearest Parent of all creation,  
we come to you full of worries and opinions.  
We are buffeted by world events  
and by events in our own lives  
and those of our family and friends.  
And so we open our hearts and minds to you today.  
God, be our strength.  
Jesus, be our model.  
Holy Spirit, breathe fresh energy into our spirits.  
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Tom Walkling, Utterson U.C., Port Sydney, Ont.***

## **We Listen for God's Word**

Time for the Young at Heart – How does a “House For Sale” sign make you think of God?

### **Hymn - MV #157 I Am a Child of God SH Disc 2 #13**

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,

I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,

I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,

I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,

I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Living God,

as we listen to these old, old texts, inspired by you,

may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate hearts.

May your words of wisdom speak to us in unexpected ways and unexpected places in our lives in today's world.

May your wisdom move, illuminate, deepen, inspire, and motivate us to act in your world, of which we are part. Amen.

*Sheryl McLeod, Admaston P.C., Admaston, Ont.*

### **Scripture Psalm 29 When the storm strikes**

Trust God – don't pin your faith on human potential.

**Science and technology, wealth and popularity –  
these will all pass away.**

Only God is worthy of lasting worship.

**Fame and fortune will not save you when the tempest strikes.**

The winds whirl in; waves crash upon your comfortable shore.

**Houses collapse like cards;**

**corporations crumble; assets become worthless.**

Branches break off, mighty empires are uprooted.

**Possessions, wealth, and status cannot save you.**

You stand alone before the power of God,

as naked and helpless as the day you were born.

**You tremble like a twig in a tempest.**

All that you depended upon is stripped away,

like the last leaves from autumn trees.

**Before God's power, you face your own frailty.**

Nothing can save you – except God.

Only God is greater than any human crisis.

**Only God can sustain you through the storm,**

**and carry you to the calm on the other side.**

Romans 8:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup>For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

### **John 3:1-17**

#### **Jesus Teaches Nicodemus**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

## **Anthem Yvonne and Earl Morris**

### **Message**

Each year, on the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate what is known as the “Trinity”. God. Jesus, the Holy Spirit...3-in-1...the Trinity. This doctrine teaches that even though the three are distinct from each other, they remain one. Confusing? Yes, for many.

Is it a biblical teaching? No. Was it one of Jesus’ teachings? No. So where, you might ask, did it come from?

Well, the first place it came up was at the Council of Nicea in the year

325. The Emperor Constantine had called this Council in order to settle some of the questions that had been arising among Christians, including “the nature of Christ”. Even though only a minority of those gathered at the council agreed with the doctrine of the Trinity, it was passed anyway. There continued to be much debate over it and so in 381, at the Council of Constantinople, it came up again. The doctrine of the Trinity was reaffirmed at this Council and a further step was taken. Emperor Theodosius ruled that anyone teaching a belief to the contrary would be considered a heretic and their assemblies would not be allowed to call themselves “churches”. And so that was the beginning of the Trinitarian doctrine.

I don’t know what you experienced, but, when I was young, every week we sang the first verse of “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” in church, a hymn written in 1820. The last line of that hymn is, of course, “God in three persons, blessed Trinity”.

And so the doctrine of the Trinity has been taught for about 1700 years. I know some who accept the doctrine without question, some who reject it, and many who are confused and uncertain about it. The controversy is not about the existence of God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. It is about whether or not the three are actually one. At one time, to express unbelief in the Trinity was to be declared a heretic. Fortunately, in our denomination today, there is room for discussion, without judgement, about any faith questions.

Today, I’d like to explore the three “persons” of the Trinity.

Let’s look first at God. God is called by many names, within Christianity and in other faith traditions. For us we say “God, the Father”, “Creator God”, “Source of Love”, “God, Mother and Father of us all” to name a few. We talk about “God’s judgement”, “as God is my witness”, “God’s blessing”, and “God’s will.” Often God is credited or blamed for everything, especially disasters...”an act of God.” Is it possible that God was not instrumental at the source of a disaster but is very much present in the hearts of the people who go to help with the recovery from it? When praying, I think most of us pray to “God”, often “in Jesus’

name". I also think that most of us believe God to be omnipresent (everywhere), omnipotent (all powerful), and omniscient (all-knowing). So those are some things we say and believe about God.

Next, let's think about Jesus. "Son of God", "only son of the Father", "Redeemer", "Saviour". One thought is that, since he's the son of God, God must be older. Jesus certainly talked about God as Father... his father, our father. And yet John starts his gospel with "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." asserting that Jesus always was. Well, a few things we can be sure of: Jesus was most definitely a preacher, a teacher, and a healer in his 3 years of ministry here. He was a first-century social activist, speaking and acting out against injustices toward women, the sick, the poor, other races. He taught of a loving God, rather than a punishing one. He brought hope to people that continues to live these two thousand years later. Jesus, known as the second person of the Trinity, changes our world.

The Holy Spirit, also known as the third person of the Trinity. Some will argue that it is not independent of God but is God's power in action, God's energy. Known for years as the Holy Ghost, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost... it is also referred to as "Sustainer"...Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. We should ask ourselves, "Does our definition of the Holy Spirit make a difference in our Christian faith or living?" I don't think it should. As part of our human nature, we want to understand the ins and outs of everything. Well, this is one that we just need to accept as a mystery. We know from the experiences of people for the past 2 millennium that, if we open ourselves to it, we can see and feel the fruits of the Spirit.

We ask in our baptism liturgy, the Profession of Faith in The Triune God, "Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?" I don't believe that it is of concern to God *how we believe* the three work together or independently. I think what is important is *that we believe* in God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit. Believing in all three enable us to be born again, every



day if need be. So, by whatever name you call them...Father, Son, Holy Spirit... Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer... the Trinity is there for you.

I'll close with a few lines from A New Creed –

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

I think that's a pretty good summary for this Trinity Sunday.

### **Hymn - VU #266 Amazing Grace SH Disc 1 #4**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
this word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

## **We Respond to God's Word**

### **Offering**

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, Three-in-One, One-in-Three,  
we offer our gifts for your blessing.

As you have transformed us by your Spirit's presence—weaving  
us into a beautiful tapestry of relationship—may you bless us  
and our giving for all our relations.

By your blessing, may we become ever more the people Jesus  
called us to be, ever more intentionally aware of our  
interdependence. Amen.

*Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.*

#### **Minute for Mission**

Your Generosity Matters 2021 - Building a World Where Everyone Belongs:  
Lynda's Story about inclusion for those with disabilities.

**Video—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pq9vJdrUt-8>**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

#### **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.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **We Take Christ's Message Into the World**

### **Hymn VU #326 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing SH Disc 4 #1**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

As we leave this place, renewed in faith by receiving the good  
news and reflecting on it,  
may God fill us with love.

May Jesus fill us with courage,  
and may the energy of the Holy Spirit inspire us  
to serve as disciples in our community  
as we work with God and with each other  
to recreate the world as God would have it. Amen.

*Tom Walking, Utterson U.C., Port Sydney, Ont.*