

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 The Holy Trinity – Email Missal**

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.45 am on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, can be found here  
 Sunday Worship May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463612819?pwd=Nzg5eUwyd3h3REJLc1VoWmFXSDlMdz09>

**Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819**

**Passcode: 651484**

**You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):** (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+16473744685,,86463612819#,,,,\*651484# Canada

+16475580588,,86463612819#,,,,\*651484# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

**Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819**

**Passcode: 651484**

**Find your local number:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdCFUDkKyC>

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**Announcements:**

**A Message from Heide Emrich:**

You are invited to donate tomato plants, bean seeds, zucchini, eggplant for our front lawn garden. We have a volunteer from Trillium United Church who is willing to help dig up the garden, plant it, and weed it! Would you be willing or able to support this community project with helping hands or seeds/plants? As in past years, the produce from this garden is free for anyone who needs it! All extra vegetables will be taken to the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank. If you'd like to help, please call the church office to be put in touch with the person who will steer this project.

**A Message from Alex Black:**

GET READY FOR SUMMER With

ATWOOD HERITAGE SUMMER SAUSAGE (formerly N.S. Martin) **\$25.00 / Chubb**

Please contact Alex Black or the church office to place your order(s)

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**Gathering Hymn: Psalm 104: 24-34 – 'I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to to my God while I have my being' (Bradley Moggach – vocal & piano)**

Click here: <https://youtu.be/tXmEYnqZID4>

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

**Prayer of the Day:** God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

### **The First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8**

In 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. Seraphs 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. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And 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!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The 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.” Then 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!” (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.\***

### **Psalm: Psalm 29**

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

***Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.***

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.

***The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.***

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

***He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.***

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

***The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.***

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

***The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.***

May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace!\* (NRSV)

### **The Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For 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!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and 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. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.\***

## **The Holy Gospel according to John 3:1-17**

### ***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He 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.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus 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?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The 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.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“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. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“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.

“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.” (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ.\****

### **Sermon (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang’s voice here)**

This Sunday is “The Feast of the Holy Trinity”. This feast celebrates the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity, which is grounded in two creeds formally accepted by the church: the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. The word “Trinity” (conjunction of “tri” meaning three, and “unity” meaning one) is the theological way of describing our paradoxical belief that there is only one God but this one God has three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Although all Christian churches hold this doctrine as the most important foundation of their faith, and during about 2000 years of our church history, many brilliant theologians and intelligent scholars have attempted to give it a reasonable explanation, eventually they all fell short. Later, some Christian leaders drew a half-joking, half-threatening conclusion of this attempt by saying, “If you try to understand the doctrine of the Trinity, you will lose your mind. But if you don’t believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, you will lose your soul.”

Today, I am not going to explain this doctrine of Trinity in my sermon, because I don’t want to lose my mind. But I cannot simply escape this topic and ignore the Trinitarian nature of our God, because I don’t want to lose my soul either.

So, instead of focusing on the doctrine itself, I am going to pay attention to the third chapter of John’s Gospel and see how this Trinitarian God worked in the remarkable story of Nicodemus.

Nicodemus is a Pharisee and a leader in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. The first half of his story is told in today’s Gospel lesson: how he is interested enough in Jesus to seek him out and visit with him, but afraid

enough of being associated with him that he only sneaks out to see Jesus under the cover of nightly darkness.

The conversation actually seems very complicated and very confusing. There are many big theological terms flying around like “born again”, “spiritual birth”, “Son of Man”, “Kingdom of God”, and “eternal life” and even more. Any one of them can grab our attention and lead us to an endless discussion.

It seems that it is exactly what’s happening between Nicodemus and Jesus. Nicodemus misunderstands Jesus, and asks Jesus, “How can these things be?” Jesus responds with a tougher question: “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

In Jesus’ words, fragments of the teaching of Trinitarian God are here and there. We hear the Spirit gives birth to spirit; we hear God who loves the world so much; we also hear the Son who must be lifted up, who will not condemn the world but to save the world through him. But we don’t hear Nicodemus’ final response; we don’t know how he feels, or whether he understands Jesus or not. We don’t even know how Nicodemus left Jesus and went home.

But it is not the end of the story, Nicodemus’ name is mentioned later in St. John’s Gospel: one time is when chief priests and Pharisees are plotting to do away with Jesus, and Nicodemus argues that it is not right to judge people without giving them a fair hearing (John 7:50-52), and another time is when Nicodemus risks his life to go with Joseph of Arimathea and ask Pilate for the body of Jesus, so they can bury him (John 19:38-42).

Between today’s reading and the rest of Nicodemus’ story, something must have happened. We don’t know what, but what we do know is this: the man who first was afraid to be seen in public with Jesus eventually comes to risk his life to do the things even Jesus’ disciples won’t do, to bury Jesus’ body and to show how much he loves Jesus in front of all the people.

Although as a Pharisee Nicodemus believes in God as the Heavenly Father, he personally loves Jesus as his teacher and even his lord, he understands, maybe even has experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, the priority of his life was still his reputation, his own salvation, and God’s favor upon him. Only when he finally makes the connection among all three persons, when he finally experiences the mysterious nature of God as one in three and three in one, he has been transformed. For Nicodemus, a trinitarian God made him a new human being, who is not self-centered anymore but puts his attention more on God and His people.

Perhaps the best way to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity is to lift up faith stories like Nicodemus’, stories that recall the transformation that can take place when God enters into our lives. Stories that remind us that the God we know as Father, Son, and Spirit transformed the life and faith of Nicodemus, and continues to transform our lives today. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 399 ‘O Holy Spirit, Root of Life’ (Bradley Moggach – organ)**

**Click here: <https://youtu.be/Pz0njJ7qwak>**

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### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. We pray especially for all nations currently experiencing war or turmoil. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health or health concerns, *especially Bill, Don, Sean, Linda, Tammy, Alice & Don.* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this worshipping community of St. Peter's, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

### **Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

**Meal:** Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsiaRdyFr50>

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.  
Amen

### **Blessing:**

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.  
Amen.

### **Sending Hymn: ELW # 323 'God Loved the World' (Bradley Moggach – organ)**

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/cDwwfcF4go4>

Text: L. Bollhagen, tr August Crull; Tune: Edward Miller; Tune Name: Rockinham Old  
Text & Tune: Public Domain; Used by Permission. CCLI License # 11098609

### **Dismissal:**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**