



‘Worship at home’ Sunday May 26th 2024



Today is **Trinity Sunday** in the Church’s liturgical year, and we

consider the revelation of God as Father, Son and Spirit.

As we worship, we affirm the ongoing presence of God in our world, and in our life. We are reminded again that we can never fully imagine or comprehend the divine mystery.

Names and images describe aspects of God’s character, but never completely capture the true essence of God.

Opening:

God, our Creator, Father, Mother, Source of our lives

You formed us and all things in love.

Jesus, our Saviour, Messiah, Redeemer, Brother, Friend.

You bring wholeness and life.

Holy Spirit, Breath of Life, Helper, Sustainer.

You shape us, guide us, inspire us.

Divine Mystery, Trinity, known by many names, you are more than we can ever imagine.

Gather us, in love, as we seek

to worship, to follow, to live in you. Amen!

**Reflect on the many ways in which God
can be revealed in our world.**

**What has been your experience of God
at work in your life recently?**

Which images of God do you find helpful?

Which are most difficult for you?



This Scripture reading tells of a man who visited Jesus in the hidden dark of night, seeking to understand more about the mystery of God.

*Design: Beyer Studio, 'Trinity Window,'
Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother, Avondale, Pennsylvania*

John 3:1-17

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

"How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

New Living Translation

Nicodemus affirms that God is revealed in Jesus, recognising God's presence in Jesus' actions. However, Jesus challenges Nicodemus further – one cannot understand God simply with physical knowledge and observation. Unless Nicodemus allows God to change his whole way of being in the world, he will not be able to perceive God at work. God is made known through the Spirit, in and through whom we enter the realm of life in God. It is when we are open to the transformative working of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we come to experience fullness of God's life and love.

Jesus' words challenge us to move from curiosity to commitment, from knowledge to practice, from belief to faith. We are reminded of the great mystery of the Trinity of God who cannot be contained by words and images, who brings light to our darkness and new life in our questions and struggles. Faith is not so much about understanding this mystery with our minds, but a spiritual encounter to be experienced in a loving and intimate relationship of grace.

Trinity Sunday Litany

Within a mystery... lies another mystery
within another mystery... lies a sacrament
within a sacrament... lies a journey
through a journey... lies a living
within a living... lies a calling
within a calling... lies our God
within our God... lies a mystery
always a mystery... within another mystery



Things are never as they seem... this is Trinity Sunday...
not some enigma to solve... but a mystery to live...

Welcome into God...

~ adapted from Roddy Hamilton

Mucky Paws http://abbotsford.typepad.com/abbotsford/mucky_paws/page/7/

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16,17 NLT

In Jesus' responses to the questions Nicodemus poses about being "born from above," we see that while understanding is important and something to be worked toward, what Christ desires most for us to grasp is the love of God: the love that sent Christ into the world to show us the face of God; the love that claims us and calls us; the love that invites us to enter into relationship with the One who dwells in mystery yet seeks to know us in the midst of everyday life; the love that drenches us and draws us into new life. Jan L. Richardson <http://paintedprayerbook.com>

Prayer

Blow, wind of God,
Blow away the tight rules that hold me back
from trusting, risking, loving
Blow away those things which stand in the way
of encountering my neighbours
Ready me for birth
Prepare me for risk
Equip me with courage and vision for the new thing
that waits around the corner
We cannot choose the stories we have inherited
But we can choose the stories that we become.
Amen



— adapted from Eileen Klassen Hamm & Dori Zerbe Kornelson
<http://www.superbmennonite.org/>



Closing

May you know
the presence of the God
who dwells within your days,
the mystery of the Christ
who drenches you in love,
the blessing of the Spirit
who bears you into life anew,
each and every day.

- adapted from Jan L. Richardson
<http://paintedprayerbook.com>