

Riverside United Methodist Church

Trinity Sunday • June 7, 2020 • 9:30 AM

We gather online to worship in the name of the
+the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit+

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

One: We gather this morning in the name of the Creator,
All: who creates time and space, galaxies and stars and planets.
One: We gather this morning in the name of Jesus Christ,
All: born among us and made known to us on planet Earth,
One: We gather this morning in the name of the Spirit
All: who fills Earth with the Divine Presence
One: Creator, God, in this time we call “now” in this space we call “here”
All: we worship you. Make your presence felt among us.

Processional Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! God the Almighty

UMH 64

1 Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim bow before you only.
From the beginning, God eternally.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
you alone are holy; you alone are worthy,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name, in earth and sky and
sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Invocation

Holy God, you have given us grace, by the confession of the faith of your holy church, to acknowledge the mystery of the eternal Trinity and, in power of your divine majesty, to worship the Unity. Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see in your eternal glory One God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering the Community

THE WORD

Modern Reading “Overture: The First Creation Story” from *Spoken into Being* by Michael E. Williams

Before anything that ever was there was nothing, only God breathing into the dark. It was the deepest darkness ever known before or since. The quiet was the most profound silence that ever was before or since. In all that darkness and silence, God was lonely. So God began to spin a web of words carried on God’s breath. God said once upon a time there was light. As the phosphorescent words rolled out of God’s mouth, there was light. There wasn’t anything to see yet, but when God saw the light standing next to the darkness and the darkness standing next to the light, God said, “This is great.” But God thought there had to be more to this story since every story needs a place to take place in. So God said once upon a time there was a large clear bowl right in the middle of the light and the darkness, and there were waters above the bowl and there were waters beneath the bowl and there were waves above the bowl and there were waves beneath the bowl. God said the waters above the bowl we shall call sky and the waters beneath the bow we shall call sea and the waves above the bowl we shall call clouds and the waves beneath the bowl we shall call...waves. Then God spoke forth a stage upon which this story could be enacted. Let there be dry land, God said, and sure enough the dry land began to emerge from the waters of the deep. On the dry land grew grasses and shrubs and trees. Now that God had the stage on which the story of the beginning of all that is would be played out, there was still something missing. God said there needs to be characters to act out this story, so God said once upon a time there was a character who travels across the sky during the day and another who travels across the sky during the night and just so that character who travels at night doesn’t get too lonely and afraid I will give it thousands of companions. And the character that travels around during the day God called sun. And the character that travels around during the night God called moon and the nighttime companions to moon God called stars. And God looked at the great circle dance of the sun and moon and stars, and God said, “This is great.” Then God said once upon a time there were creatures of the water. And sure enough, as soon as God spoke, the waters were filled with minnows and marlin; there were bass and catfish in the rivers and creeks and seas. And God said once upon a time there were creatures of the air, and the sky was aflutter with the wings of robins and wrens, eagles and condors. Then God said once upon a time where were four-legged creatures, and you could hear the mooing of the carrel, the barking of the dogs, and the mewling of the cats. And once upon a time there were six-legged creatures, and you could hear the creaking of the crickets, accompanied by the buzzing of bees and the clicking of beetles. God said once upon a time there were eight-legged creatures and you could almost feel them crawling up your legs! When God heard the sounds of all the creatures playing the grand overture of creation, God said, “This is great.” But there still had to be something more. I would like someone just like me only a little different, God said, just different enough to be interesting. That’s when God decided to make human beings. God said once upon a time there were creatures in the divine image able to tell stores and create worlds and invite others into those worlds. And there were creatures just like God, only a little different, different enough to be very interesting to God and one another. That was when God said, “this must be the greatest story ever told!” They took that for a movie title later, but God said it first. And when this great story was done, it had taken six days to tell. God was having so much fun that the time had flown by. But God was tired so on the seventh day God rested and said to the humans it’s time for you to tell the story now. And sure enough from that time to this, across the globe, women and men around the world have set aside a day in which the people gather and tell stories, saying, before the beginning of the beginning of anything that ever was there was God, they say, and every time that happens somewhere in this great many-storied universe God says, “This is great!”

Psalm 8

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

Glory to God 25

1 O Lord, our God, how excellent,
how glorious is your name.
Your majesty surrounds the earth,
and children sing your fame.

2 The heavens shout your handiwork;
we stand beneath in awe,
to think the One who made all things
should care for us at all.

3 Yet you have made us less than gods,
surpassing all but you,
with hearth and mind, with strength and will,
to search for what is true.

4 Into our hands you’ve placed all things:
the earth, the sea; each place
we’re called to probe for secret gifts
and venture into space.

5 O Lord, our God, how excellent,
how glorious is your name,
majestic in your holiness.
We sing and praise your fame.

Pastoral Prayer

Gradual

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

TOWNEND

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me.
Give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for your purity.
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

One: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O God.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

One: Living Spirit, Living Word

All: Thanks be to God!

Response *(sung in Latin)*

Gloria, Gloria

UMH

72

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (Glory, Glory, to God in the highest!)

Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia! (Glory, Glory! Alleluia! Alleluia!)

Sermon

Eggs, Cheeseburgers, and H2O

Rev. Keith A.

Turner

THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving for Trinity Sunday

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved Son. With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, showing forth the fruit of the Spirit until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

And now, with the confidence of children of God, we are bold to pray the prayer Christ has taught us, saying:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn during Communion

O God in Heaven

UMH 119

1 O God in heaven, grant to thy children
mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing,
love to unite us, grace to redeem us,
O God in heaven, dear Lord our God.

2 Jesus, Redeemer, may we remember
thy gracious passion, thy resurrection.
Worship we bring thee, praise we shall sing thee,
Jesus, Redeemer, Jesus, our Lord.

3 Spirit descending, whose is the blessing,
strength for the weary, help for the needy;
sealed in our kinship, thine be our worship,
Spirit descending, Spirit adored.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

Closing Hymn

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity

W&S 3017

1 Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun—
the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope, made room within their
dance.

2 Come, see the face of Trinity, newborn in Bethlehem; then
bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the
stone.

3 Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame set
people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it
smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!

4 Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

Benediction

Sending Music