

Announcements:

1. Bible Study continues with 5 of us. We sit 6' apart & offer prayers of concern and thanksgiving .
2. The next worship service will be Father's Day June 21, 2020.
3. Please add Carolyn Ledgley to the prayer list. She is the sister of Dan Sinasac.
4. Dorothy Vogt has asked to have her name taken off the prayer list. She is doing much better. We give thanks for this!

Peace to you, Dear Friends,

As I write to you, I'm sitting by the air conditioner in the up-stairs window. By the time this gets to you, I see by my weather bug apt that the weekend will be cooler—it will be much appreciated! The meditation today begins with a large crystal (3" x 2") this was a gift to me when I was ordained. It shows the United Church Crest—the dove, the burning bush, the Bible, the Alpha & Omega (God is the beginning and the ending—forever). There is a framed picture of our United Church Crest in both of our churches. (This is thanks to Dave Martin who made this a reality.)

The reason I selected the crystal is so that you might see all the beautiful colours that are reflected. (If you have a crystal, get it out and have a look at the many colours that it reflects). It symbolizes the theme of today: “**The Many Faces of God**”. You'll note the blue, the green, the pink, the yellow—all beautiful in their own right. Together, there is such glory!

The World Council of Churches has designated this Sunday as **Trinity Sunday: Creator, Christ and Spirit**—the 3 in one. We have one God, revealed to us in many ways—many faces. When we baptize, it is always in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. In some traditions, there is the physical sign made of the cross—**Father, Son & Holy Spirit** (especially in the Roman Catholic tradition). All main line churches (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Methodist etc.) that belong to the World Council of Churches—across the whole globe, adhere to this concept of the many faces of God.

Creator, Christ & Spirit

1. Creator God

Our God – almighty, awesome, “Great Living God” This is captured well in the first hymn we sang (we sang in the video) **“Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet,**

Praise the Lord with the harp and lute,

Praise the Lord everywhere, in every way!” (VU 245)

The power and grandeur of God is experienced and felt deep in our soul. --WOW! Overpowering.

2. Jesus

As Christians, of course, we speak of Jesus, the Christ—the Holy One of God. He is **THE WORD** and we hear & learn his stories—the Prodigal Son, (there is always a 2nd chance—our God is forgiving & merciful) the Good Samaritan (be compassionate even as God is compassionate), the Golden Rule (love your neighbour as you love yourself) , the Sermon on the Mount (blessed are the peacemakers)—our Bible especially in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) gives us God's Holy Word revealed to us through the Son, Jesus. Jesus brings comfort –and also challenge. **We are “gathered, upheld and then sent out”**--GUS--

Perhaps the best hymn that speaks to this face of God is “Jesus Loves Me”.

**“Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. In his love we shall be strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes Jesus loves me! Yes! Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.”** (365 VU)

*** There is such comfort to know we are deeply, and unconditionally loved.

3. **The Spirit**

Last week’s sermon was completely focused on the Spirit. Perhaps it is best captured by today’s Choral Closing:

**“Dance with the Spirit early in the morning,
walk with the spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-borning,
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.”** (MV 156)

Let us turn now to the focus scripture of today: Genesis 1:1-2:4

In The Beginning—by Laura Alary , based on Genesis 1

In the beginning there was nothing.

No up or down.

No near or far.

No yesterday or tomorrow.

Only God.

Here.

Now.

Then came the idea.

The idea came from God and was part of God,
yet it seemed to have a life of its own.

From that idea all things came to be.

Light and darkness.

Time and space.

Energy and matter.

Everything needed to make a universe.

God gathered them together and set to work.

Out of swirling gas clouds, fiery stars ignited with a whoosh.

Planets and moons spun together,

and galaxies danced like snowflakes on a winter night.

It must have been wonderful –

dreaming, imagining,

making all those things that had never been made before.

God could see that it was all good.

The idea kept growing.

On the edge of one galaxy – a sun.

Whirling around the sun – a planet.

Small. Lifeless. Covered in dark waters.

Nothing special at first.

Then the breath of God came like a breeze and
ruffled the surface of the waters.
Something wonderful happened.
Deep in the seas, there was life.
Simple at first,
but then more complex.

It was as if God could simply not get enough of
dreaming up new forms of life.

They filled the seas.
They walked on the land.
They flew in the air.

Flowers bloomed and insects buzzed.
The little world teemed with life and colour,
scent and sound.

God looked at everything with delight.

You know how it is when you make something.
You picture it in your mind, but sometimes your
own creation can surprise you.

It was all so good – so wonderful:
lovely patterns hidden everywhere,
the cleverness of living things
who rode on the wind and waves to make their homes
in every imaginable place.

God enjoyed every bit of it.
Day and night.
Light and dark.
Land and sea.
Sky and earth.
Sun and moon.

Maybe God even laughed out loud at the sight
of dolphins leaping,
or birds doing funny dances to attract each other.

This is too good to keep to myself, thought God.
So God made another kind of living thing,
one even more like God than all the others.

This living thing could
love
laugh
delight in beauty

think
imagine
wonder
choose

maybe even have ideas of its own.

When God was finished working, **it was time to rest.**

Glad to be part of such a wonderful world, the new creature (the human) rested too.

And so today, we celebrate. We celebrate God, **Creator**, God revealed to us in Jesus, the **Christ** (the anointed one of God) and the **Spirit** that animates all energy & matter & moves in the human heart. We give thanks -- for the many faces of God.

We are gathered, upheld and sent out to proclaim the Good News of our loving God. AMEN!

PRAYERS for healing, comfort & courage:

All victims of racial discrimination & violence. The family of George Floyd.

All persons on the front lines battling COVID- 19 We pray for ourselves too. Help us to be safe, take precautions & not be in constant fear. May we have a realistic perspective.

In our faith community: Dorothy Sinclair, Frank Sinasac, Cheryl Fisher, Lisa (Downie) Power, Donna Jewett, Larry Saylor Shirley Bolton, Deb Griffith, Luis Pereira. Rev. Ross & Mary Williams, Carolyn Ledgley.

PRAYERS for blessing, praise & celebration:

Congratulations & blessings to Gary & Diane Logan who celebrate 44 years of marriage on June 5. May they have many more happy years together!

Wonderful spring weather & the careful opening up from the complete lockdown

Dorothy Vogt is much improved.

Birthdays for June 1 to June 15—Amy Malott, Jaden, Erica Ferris, Greg Stevens, Dave Martin, Nancy Ross, Rob Elliott, Joanne Lewinsky, Craig Annett, Linda Daly, Chris Walters, Mary Taylor, Tracey Robinson, Mandy Curan

Let us say our Lord's prayer together:

AMEN

For THE MERRY HEART

1. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
2. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
3. 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse, and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
4. If money doesn't grow on trees, why is it that banks have branches?
5. If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
6. Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO, and those sent by truck called SHIPMENT?
7. Why is it called "Rush Hour" when traffic moves at its slowest then?
8. Why is it that noses run and feet smell?

Have a good week. Stay safe!

Shalom, Annalee

