



Carlisle/Kilbride United Churches

Sunday May 30, 2021

Trinity

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Lighting of the Christ Candle:

(Read by Mark Stanski, <https://youtu.be/th26S9QJH5c>)

The light of Christ shines anywhere and everywhere.

(light the candle)

We welcome the light

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we join together in spirit, we remember with gratitude that we live and worship on territorial lands covered by the Dish with One Spoon Treaty. May our worship honour all who have stewarded this land and may we continue to seek right relations with all.

Call to Worship:

One: In the Holy name of God:

Father, Mother, Creator, Life-Giver,

All: We prepare for Worship

One: In the Holy name of Jesus Christ:

Son, Redeemer, Teacher, Friend,

All: We prepare for Worship

One: In the Holy name of the Spirit:

Ruah, Sustainer, Daily Guide, Wisdom,

All: We prepare for Worship

One: In the Holy name of the One who is Three
and the Three who are One,

All: We prepare to Celebrate new life. Amen

Opening Hymn: VU 217 All Creatures of Our God and King

The American Christian folk duo All Sons & Daughters (with guest cellist) performs a beautifully filmed rendition of "All Creatures of Our God and King" against the cicada-filled backdrop of Assisi, Italy, once home to the hymn's original lyricist, St Francis. Does anyone recognize the keyboard instrument being played? Perhaps a miniature

harmonium? I hope you enjoy listening to this unique performance; if you wish to sing along, the duo sings slight variants of verses 1, 2, and 5.

[All Sons & Daughters - All Creatures of Our God & King - YouTube](#)

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
 hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
 sing praises, sing praises,
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
 sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
 sing praises, sing praises,
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 4 And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon:

(Rev. Allison, <https://youtu.be/N1b-dE1XPho>)

Holy One,

You know us better than we know ourselves. What things have we done or left undone; said or left unsaid that have missed the mark, that have caused harm to ourselves or others or created stumbling blocks in our faith journey? We name these things, however great or small and give them to you. Help us reset our compass and open our selves to your wisdom and guidance. *(Silence)*

Dear Ones, we can be assured of God's love and grace, who has promised to always remain with us, redeem us and invite us into Loving relationship, and so we can sing with confidence and joy: Rise Up, Rise up!

Choral Response: MV 130 Rise Up, Rise Up

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name

Kernel of Wisdom Bad Analogies of St. Patrick on the Trinity

[introduced by Rev. Allison, <https://youtu.be/HLtusvLPmXA>]

This video is one of many created for the Lutheran Church to teach doctrine through humour. I confess that I have, at one time or another, used all of the analogies in the following video clip to try to describe the Trinity, but it is beyond my understanding, yet I know it to be true deep down in my heart. A relational God that overflows with love and grace to such an extent that it pours out for all in every way we can imagine and even more than we could ever imagine! Such a blessing that drenches our souls and we need do nothing but soak it up and let it overflow from us to everyone else we may encounter. One of the greatest things about protestants is the concept of the Ministry of all believers. Every one of us is an ambassador of Christ, sharing the love of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and in community, as community we are blessed to be a blessing. Amen

[St. Patrick's Bad Analogies - YouTube](#)

For a very interesting, but rather long explanation of the Trinity, click on this link:

[BBC - Religions - Christianity: The Trinity](#)

Hymn: VU 316 Praise Our Maker

Strathroy United once again provides us with a recording of their congregational hymn "Praise Our Maker," accompanied by organ and flute. I encourage you to join in!

[Hymn 316 Praise Our Maker - YouTube](#)

1 Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:

God is love, God is love!
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!

2 Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!

3 Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!
Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!

Prayer of Illumination:

Let your word shine in each heart
Let your truth light our way.
Let your gospel inspire justice
and your grace give us wings.

Scripture: John 3:1-17

(Read by Lynn Gladstone, https://youtu.be/gZ_wUDCOAQE)

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.

Sermon

[Rev. Allison, https://youtu.be/K5sd18h_bxc]

Hymn: VU 312 Praise with Joy the World's Creator

I hope you enjoy the powerful organ that fills the high-ceilinged interior of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York. The congregation was founded in 1628 and is the oldest Protestant denomination with a continuous ministry. The original church building was completed in 1642 but was taken over by British troops in 1692 and eventually burned. After a new building was erected the following year, King William III of England granted the church a Charter, ensuring freedom of religion in the colony, as well as a large tract of land (nearly 500 acres in what is now part of the Bronx and Bronxville). By the 1850s, New York's ever-increasing population led to the decision to build a new church on Fifth Avenue and West 29th Street in 1851-54. Tuckahoe marble blocks were floated down the Hudson River and carted across town via horse-drawn wagons to create the facade, giving the building its current moniker.

[Praise with Joy the World's Creator - YouTube](#)

- 1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.
- 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.
- 3 Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.
- 4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,

calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Prayers of the People:

(Read by Mark Stanski, <https://youtu.be/hyOSLbyoOhU>)

Holy One,

Each week we gather to hear the stories of our faith, to learn and to experience your presence; to worship and to be inspired to go forth in your name. At times, we struggle to understand. At times, like Nicodemus, we cannot imagine being reborn as an adult, yet our faith is renewed again and again, and again and again we are reborn. We feel your presence, O God in all of creation. We hear and try to live the words and teachings of Jesus. Holy Spirit, we know your presence and see the miracles of life and nature all around us. God of all knowing, we come to you at night to ask our deepest questions, yet you know what we need before we even ask. Your answers connect us with the Three: Spirit, Flesh and Water, so that we may be born from within. You teach us with your indwelling to listen and to accept and to take action. We bring our prayers for those of us who are feeling overwhelmed or in the depths of despair. We pray for those of us who are experiencing isolation and ask that you draw us closer to You in spirit, so we can be closer to each other in your name. In these days of loss and extreme change, of waiting and yearning, fill us with your courage and peace. We know, by your grace we are indeed free and like the early Christian communities, we may rejoice in your love and the freedom that is ours in Christ. Amen.

Hymn: VU 514 God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir offers a lovely rendition of "God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian" and provides both the melody and lyrics if you wish to sing along. FAPC in New York is only a 26-block or 2-km walk from the Marble Collegiate Church I also mention, a stroll that would take you past the Museum of Modern Art, the beautiful Gothic-style St Thomas Church and St Patrick's Cathedral, the New York Public Library, Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center, Saks Fifth Avenue, and many famous, internationally known flagship stores and boutique shops.

[Hymn – God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian - YouTube](#)

- 1 God the Spirit, guide and guardian,
windsped flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets,
sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people
fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles
to your Church in every place.

- 2 Christ our Saviour, Sovereign, Shepherd,
Word made flesh, Love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant,
friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors
learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion
shown through word and deed and prayer.
- 3 Great Creator, life-bestower,
truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy,
giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness,
so may those the church exalts
oversee its life steadfastly
yet not overlook its faults.
- 4 Triune God, mysterious Being,
undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom,
greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings
your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting
may give glory to your name.

Postlude:

I was sorry to hear that Kitchener-born musician Andy Klaehn passed away earlier this month. Andy was a multi-instrumentalist, a longtime woodwind instructor at the University of Guelph, and a founding member of the Top Pocket Jazz Quartet, which I saw perform at the Jazz Room in Waterloo a couple of years ago. I thought I would share with you one of his clarinet/soprano sax performances from 2013: a medley of gospel tunes with pianist John Zadro and an off-camera drummer. It's a longer video, but well worth it – enjoy!

[John Zadro Just a Closer Walk With Thee - YouTube](#)