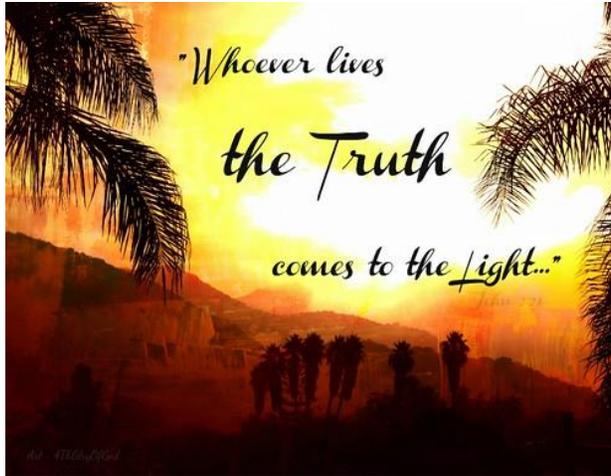


Trinity Sunday  
June 12, 2022  
"All Truth"



St. John United Church of Christ  
10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL 397-6323  
Liturgy - Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Wisdom calls and understanding speaks.

**Many: Majestic God, we recognize your voice.**

One: Creation declares your glory and humanity marvels at your care.

**Many: Merciful God, we rejoice at your works.**

One: Peace, endurance, character, and hope are gifts.  
**Many: Mysterious God, we receive your love in thanksgiving.**

**\*INVOCATION:**

God our Potter, God who becomes clay, God who shapes us in the fire, we are made new in your presence. We come seeking your wisdom, crying out our concerns, needing your peace. Use this time to form us as community, connected through your breath, life, and hope that propels us as your body in the world. Amen.

**\*UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we confess that we do not always heed the wisdom you impart. We turn toward other marks and means of validation rather than toward you. We remain in awe of our own creation while devouring and decimating yours. Continue to call us, we pray, and to surprise and delight us at your magnificence and majesty. May we always be at awe at your glory and humbled by your nearness. Let our character be shaped toward hope and reflect your peace.**

**\*WORDS OF GRACE:**

Receive the peace extended to us from the God of Grace who joined our embodied experience and who invites us to shared glory of the resurrected life in which we are made new and whole.

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-5**

**Therefore, we have peace with God**

5 Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness,<sup>[a]</sup> we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. <sup>3</sup> But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> endurance produces character, and character produces hope. <sup>5</sup> This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**\*GOSPEL: John 16:12-15**

**I still have many things to say**

<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. <sup>13</sup> However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will

proclaim to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. <sup>15</sup> Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

These are the ancient words revealed to us anew.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**MESSAGE: "Revelation"**

Hard as you might look, you won't find the words "Holy" and "Trinity" next to each other in the Bible. What the church teaches about the Trinity is a "derived doctrine."

That is, if you read the Bible with discernment, putting together such passages as the one we read today from John with other passages like the last few verses in Matthew — where Jesus tells his disciples to baptize people "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" — the logical conclusion is that God is triune. And God is one. And those two assertions don't contradict each other.

People have naturally asked whether the Trinity refers to three different gods. Or one god with three, say, masks, addresses, aliases. Or a divine committee with a president, vice president and secretary-treasurer. Or is it simply a doctrine designed to keep the know-it-alls from thinking they know it all?

In the end, much about the Trinity is shrouded in mystery for many Christians but also for many outside the faith, including Jews and Muslims. Both Judaism and Islam are insistently monotheistic, but they aren't monolithic, meaning that all Jews are not on the same page theologically and neither are all Muslims. But Christianity, too, is both tenaciously monotheistic and theologically divided.

Let's look a little more into some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit. To Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, whose great work is to bring God's truth to us. We have a special name for this bringing of God's truth to us; we call it *revelation*, and no passage in the New Testament shows us what we might call the principles of revelation better than this one the one we read today. 1. *Revelation is bound to be a progressive process.* Many things Jesus knew he could not at that moment tell his disciples, because they were not yet able to receive them. It is only possible to tell people as much as they can understand. We have many retired teachers with us and they will agree that you can't give high school textbooks to first graders.

a.) It is the explanation of the parts of the Old Testament which sometimes worry and distress us. *At that stage*, they were all of God's truth that could be grasped. For example – in the Old Testament

there are many passages which call for the wiping out of men, women, and children when an enemy city is taken.

At the back of these passages, there is the great thought that Israel must not risk the taint of any pagan and lower religion. To avoid that risk, those who do not worship the true God must be destroyed. That is to say, the Jews had *at that stage* grasped the fact that the purity of religion must be safeguarded; but they wished to preserve that purity by destroying the unbelievers. When Jesus came, people came to see that the way to preserve that purity is by means of *conversion*. The people of the Old Testament times had grasped a great truth, but only one side of it. Revelation has to be that way; God can reveal only as much as people can understand.

b.) The next principle of God's revelation is that it continues. As UCC people we have heard many times, "God is still speaking" and that is one of the great truths. God's spirit is always active; God is always revealing more.

2.) God's revelation to men and women is a revelation of *all* truth. It's wrong to think of it as confined to what we might call theological truth. The theologians and the preachers are not the only people who are inspired. Think about inventors, scientists, composers, artists, those who find new

treatments and mediations; all that is a revelation from God. All truth is God's truth, and the revelation of all truth is the work of the Holy Spirit.

3.) That which is revealed comes from God. God is both the possessor and the giver of all truth. Truth is not a human discovery; it is God's gift.

4.) Revelation is the taking of the things of Jesus and revealing their significance to us. Jesus is never exhaustible. No one has ever grasped all that he came to say.

Revelation comes to us, not from any book or creed, but from a living person. The nearer we live to Jesus, the better we will know him. The more we become like him, the more he will be able to tell us.

This sounds like a simple principle to grasp, yet most of us spend our entire lives trying to learn more and more and more and more. The well is never dry. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER:** You have given us the Holy Spirit, Christ Jesus, to enable us to share your peace with others. We ask you to prepare us to speak your words of truth, love and forgiveness to all we meet. Your wisdom, O God, is beyond all understanding, beyond our individual comprehension. We are

grateful for all the good gifts you have given us and the grace to use them for the benefit of humanity.

We pray for all your children who are suffering, from lack of food to lack of peace. We pray for all those affected by the war in the Ukraine. We pray for those affected by harmful weather. And we pray for all those who are sick, lonely, in pain, mourning, or lost. May your love radiate to all, dear God.

To the risen Christ our Savior, to you who raised him from death, and to the Holy Spirit be ascribed all glory and dominion now and forever.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: PRAYER RESPONSE:**

**NCH 283 "Spirit of the Living God"**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:**

Giver, Steward, and Guide, may these gifts we bring

magnify beyond the boundaries of our community to create new possibilities in the world.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING:**

Generous, Abundant, and Precious God, bless our offerings of presence, ability, and resources as we participate as your co-creators.

**\*BENEDICTION:**

May the God of Peace assure you. May the God of Life invigorate you. May the God of Wind direct you. Go, in peace and hope, to transform your community and the world to the glory of God.

**PRAYER LIST:** Urban Baum, Donna Isselhard, David Seneczyn, Warren Neff, Carol White, Dennis Franklin, Cheri Schutzenhofer, Dorothy Wagner, Theo Mally, Leah Horner, Dan Gouge, Jane Riess, Leah Captain.