**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**Trinity Sunday**

**June 4, 2023**

“The mystery of the Trinity is at the heart of my story of love.” (Bishop Ken Untener)

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**HELLOs and then Betty mutes everyone.**

**WELCOME**                                                                             **(George Urban)**

Welcome, everyone as we celebrate Yahweh, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (Wisdom)!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Thanks to the people who will be reading: Bill Fanelli, Tim and Mia Brown, Anne Regan, Judith Galleazzi,  Judy Sholes, Linda Donaldson, Ann Jelen, Nancy Sushinsky,  and Maria Desjardins. Thanks to Debra Street for leading our final song.
* To help us stay attentive to each other; let’s refrain from Zoom chat until after our closing song.
* Please remember to unmute yourself before speaking and mute again afterwards.
* If you are willing to read in the future, please let Betty or the planners know:  For June 11, Mary Dolmage and Cecilia Estrada. For June 18, Lynn Bufka. For June 25, Kathy and Bill Cavanaugh.

**SETTLING IN**                                                                                        **(Anne Regan)**

Take some time to be still and relax.… Be aware of the gift of your breathing.… Be aware of the depth of God’s love deep within your being.… Take a deep breath again to celebrate our being in God and with each other.... Finally, breathe together and reflect on God’s gift that calls us to be here to celebrate this morning. Close your eyes and continue reflecting for a few more seconds.  (Pause)

 Now we will sing our opening song!

**OPENING SONG:**   **Our Triune God**

<https://youtu.be/GOsfxZQSCRU?t=29> played at 1.25

 (Alicia) Bill Fanelli will read our Call to Worship.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                                         **(Bill Fanelli)**

We come to celebrate.

Clap your hands.

We come to listen.

Touch your ears.

We are community.

Dance together.

**GATHERING PRAYER**                **(Tim Brown)**

We gather together

To grasp the Spirit surrounding us,

To hear the Word declared,

To share our prayer,

To prepare to reach out to others,

To give a “holy kiss.” Amen.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME**                       **(Alicia Urban)**

To me the­ readings for Trinity Sund­ay don’t really focus on our God as Yahweh: our Abba, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.  However, I found a sermon that supports biblically the Trinity.  It touched me and I hope you will be able to reflect on the Word of God.  We will also hear from 2 Corinthians and a reflection by Richard Rohr.

In preparing for today I lost a former script but still managed to gather our celebration together.  So let us pray in thanksgiving for our always active, always available Triune God!

*[Pause.]*  Now George, as Pastor Jim Feeney, will read an edited section of his sermon. using scripture to support the Holy Trinity. In this sermon on the Trinity, Pastor Jim's aim is: “to **demystify** the doctrine of the Holy Trinity in simple biblical language.”

**READING 1**                   **(George Urban)**

**A Holy Trinity Sermon in Plain, Understandable Language (edited)**

Good Morning:  Right at the outset let's ask the question: "What does 'the Trinity' mean?" One brief, time-tested definition of the Trinity reads like this: *There is****one God****, eternally existent in****three Persons****….”* This short statement summarizes the biblical concept of the tri-unity, or three-in-oneness, of God.

*1 Corinthians 2:14   People without the Spirit do not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they see such things as foolishness, and* ***cannot understand****, because these things are****spiritually discerned****.*

*1 John 5:7, For there are three that bear record in heaven,****Abba****, the****Word****, and the****Holy Spirit****: and* ***these three are one.***

**1. IS THERE ONE GOD? YES.**

*Romans 3:30  ...there is****only one God****...*

*Mark 12:29, KJV  ...Hear, O Israel; The Lord our****God is one****.*

**2. CAN GOD BE PLURAL, EVEN THOUGH ONE? YES.**

*Genesis 1:26-27     Then****God****said, “Let****us****make humans in****our****image, in****our****likeness...” [27] So****God****created Adam in****God’s****own image...*

•• The very word for*“God”*is **plural** in the Hebrew of these and many other verses.

*Genesis 3:22a  “The people have now become like one of****us****, knowing good and evil.”*

*Genesis 18:1-2  The****LORD appeared****to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent…. [2] Abraham looked up and saw****three men****standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.*

**4. IS JESUS GOD? YES.**

*John 20:28  Thomas said [to the*[*resurrected*](https://www.jimfeeney.org/my-Lord-my-God.html)***Jesus***[*], “My Rabbi and****my God***](https://www.jimfeeney.org/my-Lord-my-God.html)***!****”*

*1 Timothy 3:16,  And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness:****God was manifest in the flesh****, justified in the Spirit, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Matthew 1:23  “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a **son**, and they will call him **Immanuel**” — which **means, *“God****with us.”*

**5. IS THE HOLY SPIRIT GOD? YES.**

*Acts 5:3-4  Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have****lied to the Holy Spirit****.... You have not****lied****to people but****to God****.”*

*Acts 13:2  While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the****Holy Spirit said****, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I****have called****them.”*

**6. THE ONENESS OF THE HOLY TRINITY.**

\*\* Three and yet one. Tri- unity!

**7. MANY SCRIPTURES REVEAL THE FULL TRINITY.**

*Matthew 3:16-17  And****Jesus****, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the****Spirit of God****descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

*Summary:* The bible clearly teaches us that there is one God. The Bible also reveals that there are three divine Persons (God, God the **Son**, and [God the **Holy Spirit**](https://www.jimfeeney.org/holy-spirit-person-work.html)) and that *“these three are one”.* Not three Gods, but one triune God, eternally existent in three Persons.…

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS**                                                                  **(Ann Jelen)**

(Choose the one that fits best for your reflection.)

1. If you were announcing the wonder of Our Triune God, what would you say? How are you feeling as you proclaim this wonder?

1. What affected you as you listened to the scriptural words that point to this wonder?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**    **(Betty:** Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.)

 Betty:  Now Linda Donaldson will read from 2nd Corinthians.

**READING 2:**  2nd Corinthians 13:11-13  **(Linda Donaldson)**

11  Children of God, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

13 The grace of the Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS**                                      **(Ann Jelen)**

(Choose the one that fits best for your reflection.)

1. Pause and reflect on Paul’s words that support the Trinitarian aspect of the grace of our God in 3 persons.
2. How does the “peace” of God, that Paul declares, wash over you?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**                             **(Betty:** Share slide 2, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.)

Betty:  Anne Regan will read the edited 3rd reading.

**READING 3:      Fr. Richard Rohr**                                        **(Anne Regan)**

*Father Richard Rohr offers several images to help readers understand the dynamism of Trinitarian love.*

The Franciscan philosopher, theologian, and mystic St. Bonaventure (c. 1217–1274) described the Trinity as a “fountain fullness” of overflowing love. Picture three buckets on a moving water wheel, like we see in rural areas of Europe. Each bucket empties out and swings back, inevitably waiting to be filled again. And it always is! Most of us can’t risk letting go or emptying out. because we aren’t sure we will be refilled. But the three Persons of the Trinity empty themselves and pour themselves out into each other. Each knows they can empty themselves because they will forever be refilled. To understand this mystery of love fully, we need to “stand under” the flow and participate in it. It is infinite outpouring and infinite infilling without end. It can only be experienced as a flow, as a community, as a relationship, as an inherent connection.

Another image we might use is that of a spinning, whirling top of perfect infinite love that is planted inside of everything. What we recognize is that everything is attracted to everything, that life is attracted to life, that love is attracted to love. This is what it means in Genesis 1:26–27 where it says everything is created in the image of God. God planted this whirling, alluring attraction of life toward life in everything created.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS                                                                  (Ann Jelen)**

(Choose the one that fits best for your reflection.)

1.  Imagine yourself as part of a water wheel.  What is it like to be filled with Trinitarian love?

2.  As you spill that watery love, what does this action mean to you?  Where does the water go?

3.  What is it like when your bucket is emptied out or as your bucket rises again to be filled with this watery love?

4. How would you respond as a spinning, whirling top of perfect infinite love?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**                             **(Betty:** Share slide 3, fade 1:45-1:59, stop slide.)

Betty:  Now Judith Galleazzi will lead us in our sharing.

**SHARING**        **(Judith Galleazzi)**

We invite you to **briefly** share what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on these readings that help us to glimpse the many ways God is among us.  We welcome new voices, and we also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening.  And let’s leave a bridge of silence between speakers.

We begin in silence as we gather our reflections.  *[Long pause.]*

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards.

Who would like to begin?

(People share brief personal reflections. ………. )

(Ask when closer to the time limit, “Would anyone else like to share.”

Let sharing continue for about a total of 20 minutes, stopping by 20 minutes after the hour.)

Thank you for your insights and thoughts.  We must stop now, but we can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now let us pray together our intensions with Judy Sholes.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**                                 **(Judy Sholes)**

[Long pause.]

**Our response is:  Our Triune God, hear our prayer.**

Praying for peace and survival, let us hold in our hearts those in war ravaged Ukraine and all the other nations warring or struggling to survive. May there be peace and reconstruction and adequate food and shelter.

Let us pray: Our Triune God, hear our prayer.

Praying with compassion, let us remember those who are in the midst of suffering  illness, hunger, poverty, homelessness, alienation, isolation, persecution, loss of everything in war or natural disasters, and all the people, including children, who suffer or die from gun violence.

Let us pray:  Our Triune God, hear our prayer .

Praying with hope, let us remember all religious and the Leadership of Catholic Sisters who continue to speak for peace and justice and acceptance of all God’s people,

Let us pray: Our Triune God, hear our prayer.

Praying with thanksgiving, let us celebrate the grace, wisdom, and joy of what we have received from our God.

Let us pray:  Our Triune God, hear our prayer .

For what else shall we pray?  (Please unmute and then mute yourself after your intention.)

(People share their prayers. ………. )

(End with😊 Thank you.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**                                                  **(Marie Desjardins)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in and among us.  *[Pause.]*

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the cup,

gifts of the earth and work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it. *[Pause.]*

Holy One, make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER**          **(Nancy Sushinsky)        ALL, MUTED**

Now let us join our hearts with all who seek the coming of God, using the words that Jesus gave us as written by the Polynesian and Māori people and the New Zealand Anglican community:

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING** Jan Richardson **(Mia Brown)**

From the dream-filled land,

   Cry!

What shall I cry?

That all earth

    Is sacred ground,

The dwelling place

   Of God.

 From the rushing wave,

   Cry!

What shall I cry?

That the earth

   Is drenched with mystery

Dancing over

   The face of the deep.

From the restless wind,

   Cry!

What shall I cry?

That the Spirit

   rushes through

The one placed

  in Her path.

From the burning flame

   Cry!

What Shall I cry?

That creation is ablaze

   with the holy;

To see

   is to be consumed.

**FINAL SONG: The Play of the Godhead (Hymnal number 484)  (Debra Street)**

Text: May Louise Bringle  Tune: Bedford Park; Robert J. Batastini

**Verse 1:**

The play of the God-head, the Trinity’s dance, Embraces the earth in a sacred romance; With God the Creator and Christ the true Son, Entwined with the Spirit, a web daily spun In spangles of mystery the great Three-in-One.

**Verse 2:**

The warm mists of summer, cool waters that flow, Turn crystal as ice when the wintry winds blow. The tap-root that nurtures, the shoot growing free, The life giving fruit, full and ripe on the tree; More mystic and wondrous, the great One-in-Three

**Verse 3:**

In God’s gracious image of coequal parts, We gather as dancers, uniting our hearts. Men, women, and children and all living things, We join in the round of bright nature that rings With rapture and rhythm: Creation now sings!

**RESOURCES**

USCCB: edited 2 Corinthians for June 4, 2023

Reading 1: the full sermon by Pastor Jim Feeney - <https://www.jimfeeney.org/trinity.html>

Reading 3: the full reflection by Fr. Richard Rohr - <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/images-of-the-trinity-2022-01-12/>

Final blessing: Jan Richardson:  *Sacred Journey*, pp. 27-271

Our Triune God: Ken Canedo, 7 PM Choir,  <https://youtu.be/GOsfxZQSCRU?t=29>

Images:

* Symbols of Trinity:  Google: Images of the Trinity
* Wikipedia, “Kiss of Peace” – “The Farewell of Saints Peter and Paul” by Alonzo Rodriguez
* Fr. Richard Rohr:  Image of the Water Wheel