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*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God*

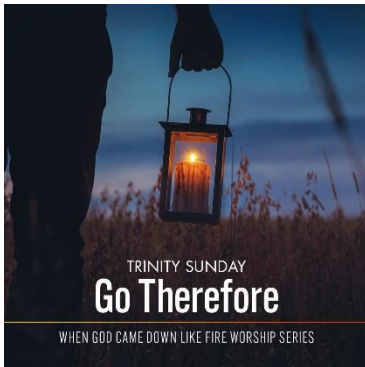
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***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Announcements – Joys/Concerns**



Today we start at the beginning. But why did the lectionary preparers choose Genesis as the Hebrew scripture text for Trinity Sunday? When we read Genesis chapter 1 do we see the three-in-one God at work? Do we experience something of that completeness, of that wholeness, as we work our way through this familiar account?

Genesis 1 says that when time began, God was. When Creation came to be, God was the cause. The water is the incubator, the womb of God out of which Creation is birthed.

“The wind of God swept over the face of the waters,”  
says the New Revised Standard Version Bible.

“The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters,”  
says the New International Version Bible.

Eugene Peterson’s The Message says,  
“God’s Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.”

I like that. Brooded. Like a hen tending the eggs before they hatch,  
like a mother waiting for the time to give birth. God tends the creation; God calls it forth.

But wait, is it the Spirit that is the creative force of God or the Word?

The Spirit brooded, the Word was spoken, and there was.

The Prologue to the Gospel of John tells us the Word was that force: John 1:3 “All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.” It was the Word that brought forth light, and then it was the Word that pronounced it good.

Spirit -Word-Was. 3 in 1 and 1 in 3. It is with this truth that we gather today.

Marilyn E. Thornton writes: There is a tree in Johannesburg, South Africa, that stands in the yard of a Catholic retreat center. When viewed from one angle, one sees a singular tree with a very large trunk. From another angle, the tree appears as three distinct trees, down to the very roots. The tree was nicknamed Trinity—Three-in-One.

The base of the tree became a meeting ground where we experienced community. There, and around its trunks, we discussed the deep things of life. No matter where you leaned on the tree, you were supported. No matter where you gazed on it, it was beautiful—three trunks, one tree, inseparable and unified at its base, drawing us into fellowship with one another. It was amazing.

The existence of this tree is a natural and compelling illustration of the existence of our Triune God, a God that operates in community to create community. Whether calling out God, Jesus, or Holy Spirit, it is the Three-in-One God, inseparable and unified, that responds to our every need. No matter what name or office you call out, God will bear you up. No matter where you look, you can see the beauty of what God is doing.

God the Creator; God the Savior; God Who Empowers: lures us into loving relationship with God's self and with one another. It is just so amazing! Look again; it is one tree down to its very roots.

With these words of inspiration let us come together in our:

### **A Call to Worship**

We come today to worship the Triune God, even as we, like the Eleven on the mountainside, have our doubts.

**Holy Trinity, meet us in our questions and help us embrace your mystery.**

We come to encounter the God who is both immense and particular, greater than words can describe, and yet intimately present with us.

**Holy Trinity, surround us with your love that brings order to chaos and community to individualism.**

We come to give thanks to the God who created and sustains us, and who calls us to steward the earth and all that live in it.

**Holy Trinity, empower us to enter into partnership with you for the flourishing of all creation with gratitude and joy.**

We come to receive Christ's commission to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach the gospel wherever we go.

**God, immerse us in the life of the Holy Trinity that we might go and welcome others into the dance of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**Holy God, Three in One, you are our eternal hope, our companion in life, our liberating power. Lead us in your mission, baptizing and teaching in your blessed name, so that all may worship you to the end of the age. Amen.**

## **Praise Hymn UMH 75 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”**

*Attributed to: William Kethe (1561)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Attributed to: Louis Bourgeois (1551)*

**1. All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.**

**2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**3. O enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.**

**4. For why! the Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.**

**Gospel Reading..... Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)**

### **The Commissioning of the Disciples**

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”[a]

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

## **Faith Hymn UMH#569 “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”**

*Author: H. Ernest Nichol (1896)*

*Copyright: Public Domain*

**1 We've a story to tell to the nations,  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light,  
a story of peace and light.**

**Refrain:**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright,  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light.**

**2 We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil,  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword. [Refrain]**

**3 We've a message to give to the nations,  
that the Lord who reigneth above  
has sent us His Son to save us,  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love. [Refrain]**

**4 We've a Savior to show to the nations,  
who the path of sorrow has trod,  
that all of the world's great peoples  
may come to the truth of God,  
may come to the truth of God! [Refrain]**

**Message**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin to God.

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

In the act of confession, we acknowledge how we have missed the mark, and we call upon God to save us from the destruction of sin and turn us back toward life. Let us now confess our sin before God and one another.

**Gracious God, we confess our sin, which separates us from you. We know how people who belong to you should live, but we fail to live that way. At times we have forgotten that we bear your image and have done evil. At times we have forgotten to live in response to your sacrifice for us and have acted selfishly. At times we have ignored the voice of your spirit speaking to our conscience, and we have followed the desires of our own heart. As a result, we have lived for self rather than for you or our neighbor, our lives have been diminished, our witness has been stifled, and your image within us has been tarnished. Forgive us, good Lord, through Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, guide us to live as people who know and love you. Amen.**

The Lord, who saves you, says: I am the God who forgives your sins; I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you. Let us praise the triune God:  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (for ordinary time)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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,  
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.  
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.  
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day  
when justice shall roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,  
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

**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.  
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.  
At his ascension you exalted him  
to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

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."

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 is 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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
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 Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **BREAKING AND SHARING**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Thank you, God, for uniting us with Jesus in this holy mystery.  
We are no longer our own, but yours.  
So, send us, and put us  
to leading and serving in your mission  
wherever we go. We come to you this day joining  
a one in the prayer your beloved Son taught us to pray.

**Our Father...**

### **Departing Hymn UMH 664 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"**

*Author: Omer Westendorf (1964)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.*

*Tune Information*

*Harmonizer: Leland Sateren (1972)*

*Copyright: Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God  
from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended,  
O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship  
in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action  
for god and for all.  
God's grace did invite us,  
and love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom  
and answer the call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday  
life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children  
of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one  
in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ  
and that name which we bear.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Go, therefore, because you are children of the Triune God and partners in God's work of light, life, and love that even now is at work all around us. May the mystery of the Trinity enfold you, the glory of the Trinity astound you, and the love of the Trinity companion you on your way. Amen.

### **Postlude**