



The United Church of Canada  
**Ministers:** All of God's People

May 31, 2026

***Trinity Sunday***

**We Gather as a Community of Grace**

**Welcome**

**Acknowledging the Traditional Territory Where We Gather**

So, today, as we gather in this place, I invite you to be mindful of the aboriginal brothers and sisters who were here before us and with that in mind, let us gather with respect and reverence as we carry on this worship celebration. Our Gathering Song ...

**Hymn of Praise Voices United #217**

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

**Spiritual Focus**

*"Trinity: Love, Grace and Community..."*

**Gathering Call: 2 Cor. 13:13**

One: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

*"Water Flowing From the Mountains" MV 87, v. 1 & 2  
(Or Any Song of your choosing)*

### **Gathering Prayer (All):**

Holiness, Word, Power, you reveal yourself as one God in three persons, a creative, loving, life-generating dancer who invites your creation to join You. Catch us up in your love and lead us into your world to call others to follow you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

### **Time with Youth** *"Three in One"*

#### **Today is Trinity Sunday...**

**Can someone tell me what does that mean?**

**Maybe we will never get the exact explanation, but a close explanation can come to us from the egg...**

**An egg has a shell, a white portion and a yellow portion...**

**They each work together without any competition...**



**There are many things in life that we will never fully understand – and that is OK ...**

**Life's Mysteries make life so wonderful and exciting...**

**In the same way Mystery with a Capital "M" – whom we call God makes life so wonderful and exciting as well...**

**Repeating Prayer** – Triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Help us to live and Trust Your Loving Mystery

And share that love with others.  
We pray in Jesus' name  
And the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **Hymn of Wonder: Voices United #703**

*"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"*  
(Or Any Song of your choosing)

### **We Seek Wisdom**

#### **Prayer of Illumination (All):**

Whisper into our ears, O Spirit, the holy word of life.

Remind us again, who we are and to whom we belong so that we may live with gratitude for all that you have done. **Amen.**

#### **Genesis 1: 1-2, 27, 31-2:1 – (NRSVue)**

#### **Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath**

#### **Genesis 1: 1-2**

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

#### **Genesis 1:27-31**

27 So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **Genesis 2:1**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude.

### **Responsive Psalm 8, VU p. 732**

**R:** O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

From the lips of infants and children your praises reach up to the heavens.

**You have set up a stronghold against your foes,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

**R:** O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their places,

**what are we mortals that you should be mindful of us,  
mere human beings that you should care for us?**

**R:** O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

You have made us little less than divine,  
and crowned us with glory and honour.

**You have made us rulers over all your creation,  
and put all things under our feet,**

**R:** all sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild,

**the birds of the air and the fish in the sea,  
and all that make their way through the waters.**

**R:** O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

### **2 Corinthians 13: 11-13**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

#### **Final Greetings and Benediction**

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; 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 saints greet you.

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

**Life Lesson:** *"Living in Peace: One Mind, One Love"*

On this Trinity Sunday, I know, we will NOT have all the answers about the Trinity or the nature of God.

I don't think that Trinity Sunday is a day to contemplate on the Dogmas, Doctrines and the Confessions that the church has come up over the centuries... **No!**

**I believe, Trinity Sunday is a Sunday to remind us - how to live.**

Trinity Sunday calls us to the way of Life that God desires for all.

I know, we want answers, facts, evidence, concrete things to hold on to – to justify our beliefs, our actions, our words...

I am certain many people, children and adults alike ask, "How can God be three in one?" How can water be liquid, frozen and vaporized?"

There are many different examples we can come up with and ask all the questions that we want, but if we are not ready to hear, we will never learn how to embrace the wonders of the earth, the Universe, and of course, God...

Think about it for a moment... can we explain all the wonders of the World? Can we comprehend all the molecules that live in the sand? All the bacteria, some good and some bad, that exist? **NO!** Then, how can we have all the answers about the **Nature of God, the Creator, the Universe?**

Beloved, if possible, we would love to have all the answers in a filing cabinet so that when we have a question, we can open the drawer and find the

answer at our fingertips ... Guess what, we do have it, it is called Google ... Do you google? You are looking for some information - You Google ... Because Mrs. Google has all the answers 😊 ... In other words, the internet has all the answers. The internet has become our filing cabinet of answers ... We can find most of the answers to life's questions by typing a few words in the Search Engine of the internet ... and sometimes you find things that you did not even were trying to find ...

But we cannot find all the details about God's Mystery, Beauty and Presence – God cannot be restricted to a filing system ... This God is a Mystery with a capital "M" – this God is beyond understanding but yet seeks relationship with all of Creatures – that includes you and me ... Friends, the Trinity Understanding in the Gospels "is a theology of relationships which explores the mysteries of Love, Relationship, Personhood and Communion within the framework of God's self-revelation in the person of Christ and the activity of the Spirit."<sup>1</sup> The Trinity is social ... And this is not limited to the New Testament, but it is present from the beginning of time... Genesis 1:1-2,  
"1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." That Spirit, the "Ruach" (Original Hebrew the Breath) was there ... That is the same Ruach that Jesus

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<sup>1</sup> In God for Us: The Trinity & Christian Life, Catherine Mowry LaCugna

breathed upon the disciples ... That is the same Ruach, that God breathed into ADAM – into humanity ... One of my favourite symbols of the Trinity is from the Celts, the Irish... **Is this Symbol...**



Do you see it? It shows Oneness that can never be separated ...  
The psalmist speaks of this wonderful work of the universe working together. There is a Oneness that Calls us to live in the same manner.  
When Apostle Paul proclaims "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you" he is reminding the church of Corinth to live in Harmony ... to learn from the Trinity and Live in Unison. Today, Apostle Paul's Proclamation, comes to you, the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – comes to the UCC, this Regional Council and all the denominations – The Call of the Trinity to us today is: "Live in harmony with ALL and Allow the Mission of God shape the Church". "God does not look for success but seeks faithfulness from us...."  
Next Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of our denomination ... Do you know how and why the United Church of Canada was formed? To serve the People ... The Congregationalist, the Methodist and part of the Presbyterians came together, and they allowed the needs around them, the mission of God to shape the church ...

The world might seem heavy-laden, but God's Future will not fail. The Church is alive more than ever before because of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice – Once again – three in one.

We are all part of this historic evolution ... What a gift it is to be part of the Change that brings new life ... One of our contemporary theologians, Phyllis Thistle, used to say, "Every three to five hundred years the church goes through an Attic/Garage Sale" and this is one of those historical moments in time.

Can you think of a time where you did such clean up?

Do you recall how good you felt?

I think Trinity Sunday reminds us that there is hope even in the despair of brokenness – because we do not face overwhelming challenges of the world alone – the Triune God is with us.

Some of us might have family members who live far from us, but the community of faith we are part of upholds us, cares for us and others and creates a community that the world cannot offer ...

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" May you live in Love, Grace and Community – Knowing that you are Not Alone...

Thanks be to the Triune God.

Amen.

### **Hymn of Going Forth: Voices United #299**

*"Teach Me, God, to Wonder"*

*(Or Any Song of your choosing)*

## **Prayers of Hope and Healing**

We give you thanks, O God, for the world you have entrusted us with, you made in the beginning, and you continue to create and recreate daily. Calling us to be good stewards.

Make us wise and careful of your gifts as we live on Earth – may we be respectful to you, the earth and to each other.

### **God of all goodness, hear our prayer.**

On this Trinity Sunday, we pray that the love which passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each person and draw us all into your unending love and abundant life.

### **God of all goodness, hear our prayer.**

We pray for unity between leaders of the church:

for Protestants, Roman Catholics, and the Orthodox; for Sunday school children and youth; for the elderly whose wise counsel is sorely needed in all ages; and for all ecumenical endeavours that seek to bring us closer to each other and to you.

### **God of all goodness, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our families, our households, and our communities, that your life together — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — may show us the importance of each of us and so strengthen us in your grace and truth.

### **God of all goodness, hear our prayer.**

We also pray for the sick and those who suffer in any way; for those who struggle to pay rent or make ends meet; for those who have no home; for those who are neglected and abused; for people who long for family and are instead alone; for people who have family but yet feel lonely. We pray for all children who do not have a good guide to raise them. Help us have the courage to help each other without judgement.

**God of all goodness, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those needs still unnamed but placed before you now,  
either silently or aloud, we bring them to you.

**God of all goodness, hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we entrust all that is of concern this day, sure that you hear our pleas, grateful that your will be done on earth as in heaven.

We pray this in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit. And we sing the words Jesus had prayed – As you are our father and mother from eternity to eternity ... We sing the words that Jesus taught us ...

**The Prayer of Jesus (sung or Spoken)**

**VU 960**

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

#### **Minute for Mission**

**Invitation to the Offertory:** *Jesus sends his disciples into the world to bless all. With God's love, in the Holy Spirit, let us give as we are able, to make a difference in this World for God's glory. We receive this morning's offering.*

**Offertory Song – VU 541 –**

*"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*  
(Or Any Song of your choosing)

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All):** For all that you have given us, we thank you, gracious God. For day and night, evening and morning, for land and sea, for fish and birds, plants and animals, for humankind, and for your Son, who came among us and showed us that giving is always better than receiving. Let your Holy Spirit abide in our midst and work through our gifts, that all people may have joy and peace. **Amen.**

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

**Hymn of Going Forth: Voices United #481**

*"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"*  
(Or Any Song of your choosing)

**Commissioning & Benediction**

Beloved, the eternal Creator calls us. The risen Saviour sends us.  
The dynamic Spirit empowers us.  
Therefore, go into the world,  
In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and sustainer.  
and make it a better place.

And Now:

Through baptism, you are one with Christ.  
Through baptism, you carry the sign of Christ  
Through baptism you have received the Holy Spirit.  
Know that You are embraced with Peace, today and always. Amen.

**Choral Blessing "May the Love Of the Lord" MV 218**

*(In Honour of Asian Heritage Month)*

**Postlude:**