

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

June 7, 2020  
Trinity Sunday



## Introduction

Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

We gather each week to worship and pray on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples. For thousands of years they have walked on the land and paddled the waters of the Salish Sea. We are grateful to the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for their stewardship of these lands and adjoining waters throughout the ages.

**Link for the service:** <https://youtu.be/wXLd7e5weeE>

## Prelude –

“God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom.”

## Opening Hymn 450: I Bind unto Myself Today

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity  
by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three,  
of whom all nature has creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation; salvation is of Christ the Lord

## Prayer of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## Psalm 8:

O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth! –

**You whose Glory is chanted above the Heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; You have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**What are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet, you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honour you crown them.

**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

All flocks and cattle

even the wild beasts of the field,

**The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

<sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

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

### **Gospel:**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter

### **Glory to you Lord**

<sup>6</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”<sup>[a]</sup>

The Gospel of Our Lord

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Reflection on the Gospel**

“Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” – our tongues roll out these words automatically. For centuries, theologians have tried to rationalize them, explain them, and put them to paper, tying their thoughts into knots in the attempt. One God, three persons.

Though the word “Trinity” is not used in the Bible, we catch glimpses of it throughout scripture.

- In Genesis: *“In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,”* God is revealed as the Creator in God’s first incarnation – the cosmos, our universe, our earth.
- In Wisdom of Solomon: *“With you is wisdom, she who knows your works and was present when you made the world...”*, and in Genesis and Acts: *“a wind from God swept over the waters in creation...”* and *“suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting...”* The Spirit of wisdom, the Holy Spirit.
- In John: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”; “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.”* The incarnated Son.
- And in Genesis: *“Let us make humankind in our image...”*, God is revealed with a plural rather than a singular image. How often have we not seen or heard this verse!

Words are inadequate to express the nature, the majesty, and the mystery of God, for God is beyond vocabulary. But God continues to reveal Godself as a living relationship, rather than as a word. Three in One, One in Three; inseparable and completely connected to the other throughout time.

Interconnectedness and relationship – the existence of and the longing for both – are front and centre in our world at this overwhelming time. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we experience the rapid speed with which something that pops up in one far away location is suddenly in our own midst. In the midst of the pandemic, we experience how relationships we once took for granted are changed or even eliminated. We search for new ways to connect with one another, new methods to communicate with associates, family, and friends, new ways to do ministry when physical connection is no longer possible or advisable.

And in the midst of the stress of coping with this world-wide pandemic, the action taken by a police officer in one American city, shocks us and shows us dramatic repercussions and protests throughout an entire culture and society – events that do not preclude repercussions in our own.

Both the pandemic and the protests have unprecedented effects upon ways of life, upon economies, upon our use of resources, upon justice, upon how we relate to one another, and upon the groaning earth itself. We no longer know nor are certain what can be trusted. Suddenly, we have become achingly aware of how much relationships with one another are integral to who we are and who we have been created to be.

In the midst of this, what does a God revealed as relationship mean for us? The triune God's relationship is an intimate one. It is a relationship of love – created out of love, by love, for the giving and living of love. It is a relationship to which God calls all of creation, every person and every nation. For us to accept God's invitation to enter that relationship of love is to obey – joyfully, if also fearfully – what Jesus commanded: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and Love your neighbour as yourself. To love is to act, to support, and to share. To love is a verb resulting in a dynamic and ever-changing living of life. To love is to trust another completely.

To love another is to stand with the experience, the joy, and the pain of that other's existence. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, the Incarnate God entered our lives, and we are called to do the same with all that God has created. To love another is to search deeply within one's own self, to search for what you are being called to offer to the relationship, and to learn what stands in the way of the fullness of that relationship. In the midst of the pandemic and in the midst of the civic protests shedding light into the dark corners of the minds and actions of individuals, of groups, and of societies that we thought we knew but discover we don't know much at all, the triune God calls to us. Calls us into a deeper, broader relationship to dance a dance that will re-form, re-create, and empower all in love. All are called by God's love to participate in that dance and its renewal of life. A dance is not always spritely or joyful; the dance can be achingly painful and exhausting. The dance will require new skills and endless practice. It will be passionate.

Accept God's invitation to step out onto the dance floor in these uncertain times, to share our hearts with one another, to move bound-up bodies, and to change the rigidity of our own minds and of society's actions as we dance together.

The Author of creation will choreograph the dance, the life-giving Spirit of wisdom will sing the music. If we stumble and misstep, as we will, there is one who will lead us, whose steps we can trust and follow. May we remember that we have heard the eternal Word of salvation – Jesus the Christ – whisper in our ears “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Hymn of the Day:** 412 Come, Join the Dance of the Trinity

1. Come, join the dance of the Trinity, before all worlds begun -  
the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.

The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,  
but as the Three, in love and hope, made room in their dance.

2. Come, see the face of Trinity, new-born in Bethlehem;  
then bloodied cross of thorns out-side Jerusalem.

The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;  
when fear confines the dance n death, God rolls away the stone.

3. Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame  
set people free at Pentecost to tell the Saviour's name.

We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!

4. Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,  
we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.

Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,  
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

**The Intercessions.**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need and for all of God's creation.

O Lord, we pray to you in this time of epidemic and unrest.

God of community, you form us as your church. We celebrate the presence of your Spirit among us even in this time of isolation and restraint. Be with all congregations and their leaders as they discern how to safely resume face to face worship. We pray for our pastor Vida and for all pastors. We pray for our bishops Greg and Susan, give them wisdom and boldness in leading us. Grant that we might proclaim your kingdom of Justice, compassion, and peace in our Lord Jesus, and live it out in our lives.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord we pray for those affected by the epidemic. We pray for those who are anxious and fearful, that you would give them your peace. We pray for those who are anxious about the spread of contagion as we begin the process of opening up from the restrictions of the epidemic. We pray for those who are anxious about loss of income, and for those who chafe under the restrictions of the epidemic.

We pray for those who are ill, fill them with your healing power, sustain them in their suffering and restore them to wholeness.

We pray for medical staff. We pray for nurses, physicians, care attendants, technicians, and cleaners. Sustain them in their weariness and bless their work. Keep them safe.

We pray for all who grieve the loss of friends and family, for those who grieve the loss of things as they were, give them a sure sense of your presence and help them to move forward in your love and in the care of the community.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need.

Especially we pray for our neighbours to the South who are hurt and grieving. We pray for those who grieve the death of George Floyd at the hands of police and for those who grieve, and the brokenness of communities afflicted with deeply engrained systemic racism. Grant that their cries of pain and anger may be heard that deep seated attitudes that lead to discrimination and marginalization of people may be altered. We pray for those who demonstrate for justice and for those who cry out for compassion.

We pray for communities damaged and torn apart by this tragedy. We pray for those entrusted to maintain order for the common good, give them wisdom, compassion, and patience. Restrain the hand of all who would exploit such pain and grief for their own purposes.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our own city and for our country, that we may support each other in this time of challenge and that we may repent of the attitudes and actions that have led to racism and marginalization of minorities. We pray especially for first nations peoples, that reconciliation may be a reality, may we repent of the sins of the past, and move forward to your future of justice, compassion, and peace.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the poor, the under-employed and the unemployed, we pray for those seeking work. We pray for the destitute, for the mentally ill, for the addicted and the alienated. We pray for those who help them. We pray for workers at shelters, food banks, and in all the organizations that aid those in need. Give us eyes to see the need and pain of others and hearts of compassion and generosity.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our government and those appointed to positions of leadership in our city, our province and in our national government. We pray especially for public health officers that that may be diligent in study and may speak the truth to us all. We pray for our prime minister and for our parliament. Give them wisdom and courage to act for the good of all.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives, especially those we name before you.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: 414 Holy God, We Praise your Name:**

1. Holy God, we praise your Name: Lord of All, we bow before you;

All on earth your sceptre claim, all in heaven bow before you.

Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

4. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,

Though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you

and adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

## **Benediction**

The God of all steadfastness and encouragement  
grant us to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

And now may the God of all grace, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**Amen.**

## **Postlude –**

**Thank you to Jim Berger, Lois Grierson, Sonja Koruga, Shelley Meglaughlin and Jason Assam for producing this week's online service and bulletin.**

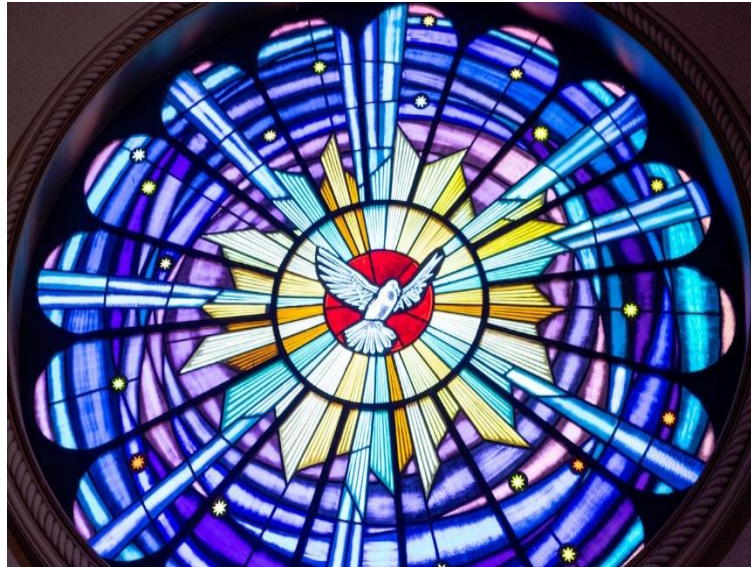
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## **Announcements:**

- Pastor Vida is away for the next 2 weeks and back at work on June 17<sup>th</sup>. If you need something in the meantime you can contact Shelley in the office or on her cell: 604-842-4513.
- **June 21 - Indigenous Peoples' Day.** We have confirmed with **Mary Ellen Kelm** for a Zoom Presentation on **the Indian Act** for 1:30PM. It will be a good learning event for all of us.





Don't forget to 'like' our page on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GDLCNV](http://www.facebook.com/GDLCNV) to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

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**Administrator:** Shelley Meglaughlin  
Church office is open Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 1:30pm

**Music Director:** Sonja Koruga

**Church Council Chair:** Candace Strom

**Vice Chair:** Ken Parkinson

**Church Council Members:** Shelley Meglaughlin, Maureen Kerfoot,  
Gail Berger, Kathleen Stoll