



Pioneer Pastoral Charge

Sunday June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday

Rev. Helen Reed, Diaconal Minister

Candle Lighting: *The light of Christ... God around us, among us, within us.*

Coming together

Living God, our caring Creator,
we are amazed

by the beautiful world you have made
that we call our home.

Christ our friend who struggles with us
and wraps us in redeeming love,
we thank you for the compassion
you have modelled for all living
creatures, human and nonhuman.

Listening God,

Holy Spirit of breath and presence,
we are sustained by
your active movement in our lives
and your radiating presence
throughout the world.

God of many blessings,
you speak to us through Earth.

We hear you on these prairie plains,
in the dance of life, suffering, joy,
death, and new life,
and in our innermost hearts.

You were there when the stars burst forth,
you have lived among us,
and you are with us now.

Help us to hear and care for
your beloved Earth and its creatures,
our neighbours. Amen.

œHymn: ♪

VU#291 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Scripture is our song for the journey,
the living word passed on
from generation to generation to guide and inspire.
**God calls us to be doers of the word
and not hearers only.**

Genesis 1:1-2:4 Common English Bible (CEB)

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth— **2** the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— **3** God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. **4** God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

6 God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other.” **7** God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way. **8** God named the dome Sky.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

⁹ God said, “Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear.” And that’s what happened. ¹⁰ God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. ¹¹ God said, “Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth.” And that’s what happened. ¹² The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was.

¹³ There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

¹⁴ God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth.” And that’s what happened. ¹⁶ God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. ¹⁷ God put them in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to

separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was.

¹⁹ There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ God said, “Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky.” ²¹ God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. ²² Then God blessed them: “Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³ There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife.” And that’s what happened. ²⁵ God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”

²⁷ God created humanity in God's own image,
in the divine image God created them,^[b]
male and female God created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground." ²⁹ Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. ³⁰ To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened. ³¹ God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

2 The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed. ² On the sixth day God completed all the work that he had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done.

³ God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation.

***Scripture opened, God invited
Prayer for Grace²***

Creator God

You have created an amazing world.
It is created in atoms and molecules,
with great diversity
and an underlying spirit of mystery
and a capacity for transformation.

We admit that there are times
when we have forgotten
the wonders and gifts
of the diversity you created.

**We have longed for things to be familiar
to stay the same as they have always been.**

We know that there are traditions
from our past that have caused harm
and continue to cause harm and pain
to those who might be different than we are.

We know that, there are times,
Intentionally and unintentionally,
when we have judged and rejected
those whom we perceive to be not like us.

Forgive us God.

We ask for your continued patience

We ask for your continued teaching

We ask for your powerful spirit

to fill us with wisdom and courage

to appreciate, accept and celebrate

the great diversity and wonder

**of the many mysteries and gifts
you share with us. Amen.**

Words of assurance.

From the very beginning of the world
God was committed to this project.
Every piece carefully placed,
Every day important and filled with treasure.
God is still with us.
As the creation has grown,
God has accompanied us,
Guiding us, loving us, even when we forget.
God is always with us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 The Inclusive Bible.

And now, sisters and brothers, I must say goodbye.
Mend your ways. Encourage one another.
Live in harmony and peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with you.
Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the holy ones send greetings to you.
The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit
be with you All!

Message/Reflection: God's favourite things

Trinity Sunday comes after Pentecost in the church year.

After the story of Jesus standing up for justice in an unjust world, after the story of God's love standing with those courageous enough to speak out for truth, after watching disciples panic and withdraw and be scared and be ignited into action by the Spirit, we are invited to take a breath and look at the vastness and mystery of the power and love of God.

The scriptures for today speak to us of God's dream at the beginning of our story, and the encouragement to be better, to love better to bring the vast mystery of God out into the open in our lives.

This Wednesday during our weekly tea time I asked which of God's gifts of creation were the most important. There were varying answers to that question: some picked one thing – the people, the land, the creatures. We had a good discussion about the fact that everything is important. All of those things are intertwined, need each other, and each needs to be respected.

In the vastness of time, from our faith legends, we learn that God of wisdom, of compassion, of adventure began something new. The Holy One took time, step by step, to create something that we

can't possibly comprehend. On each created day, God said "this is good". In all the stories I've read about Creation not once have I read that God said "This is OK, but yesterday was better" or "Hmmm...this is good enough"

Each day God said "this is good". Each day was a stepping stone to another piece of a piece of art that made space for other things, that supported other things, that lived in harmony with other things.

Then God took time to appreciate what God had created. Stopped, rested, slowed down to acknowledge that a beginning had begun. I often wonder if God wanted a new adventure and on day eight (a day we never talk about) God said ... OK, world, let's see what you can do.

The world was invited into a play, a production with the most wonderful director that was and resisted taking direction. Time and time again God said – listen up, love up and this can be better. Time and time again, most especially from the humans, the answer seems to have been "we think we have a better plan". But we don't.

That Holy, creative spirit comes to us again and again and shakes us up, reminds us that we are to be partners in this thing, together. God reminds us that nothing is more important than anything else, that when we think we are better than something or

someone disaster happens, people, creatures, or land are hurt and we all are less than we could be. People, we are not God's favourite thing. Creation is God's favourite thing and we are but a small part of it.

God changes direction for us all the time...rededicates God's self to us, comes to live among us, fills us with knowledge and courage, compassion and care, guidance and love. Why can't we do this for God?

2020 is already a year of great challenge for us. Every day brings another opportunity to remember that God doesn't have favourites, that everything, everyone is beautiful and necessary. Every day brings an opportunity for us to make decisions that heal instead of hurt and so many days we think we have a better plan. But so often we don't.

We have become so used to thinking that we are the 'good thing' that we forget there are many. We have bad habits that we don't even recognize. We have absorbed lessons of superiority that weren't there in God's plan but we think they are necessary. They are not.

How many times have we heard or said the phrase "Those people" usually followed by a judgement about how 'those people' function? "Those people"

live too close together, travel with each other, are always in trouble, don't love or live like we do so they must be wrong. But "we" make excuses for those we perceive to be "us", there must have been a good reason to yell at someone, to shoot someone, to call someone a painful, slave memory filled name. We are wrong.

When someone says "I'm hurting" we should never answer with "I am too." We should say "I'm sorry... how can I support you?" God does that. We yell and blame God and say we are frustrated and don't understand. God doesn't say "Me too". God says "I love you, how can I support you?"

What if this year of 2020 is a year for us to remember that creation story again?

What if we are to remember that God-of-many-names-and-so-much-love gave us something to be part of in ways that we have forgotten?

What if this is a year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary, so raw-

that it finally forces us to grow into better more responsive people.

What if this is a year that screams so loud, that we are finally awakened from our ignorant slumber and realize the need to be less selfish, to be more caring of all of God's favourite pieces?

A year we finally accept that we need to change,
that we need to work for change,
that we need to become the change.

A year we finally band together, instead of pushing
each other further apart.

What if... this is the most important year of them
all?*

In Paul's letter to the people of Corinth, we heard
him encourage the people of the church to live into
being better. "Mend your ways," he said. Recognize
when you haven't got things right and change them.
"Encourage one another," he said. When we see
something that needs to be fixed, encourage the fix;
when we see something done right give thanks for
that choice.

Paul said to remember that when we live as a part
of God's favourite creation God is with us. God is
with us with guidance and teachings and friendship
and love.

A clip from an old Munster's TV show said "What
matters is the size of your heart and the strength of
your character"

What character are we showing the world? Are we
standing back saying and doing nothing, are we
judging others instead of supporting them?

Are we standing up for equity,

standing up for justice willing to be a better way,
another Good day?

Are we willing to concede
that God might have the better plan?
What is the size of our heart?

Offering Invitation

Almighty God,
you used your time and talent
to create this great treasure earth.
You invited us to share
in the care of your creation
and all of the pieces needed to balance it.
May the gifts we offer
of our time, talent and treasure
honour your work and all of your people.
Amen.

Hymn: ♪ MV#78 God Weeps.

Prayers from God's people, for God's people
Holy God,
You created all things and named them good.
All things.

Our world today feels less than good.
We have forgotten how to care for each other.
We have become divided.
**So, now, we come together,
to join our hearts in prayer
for the love of your world.**

We pray for our friends, families and neighbours.

**May we appreciate all of the diversity
that you have placed within us.**

May each person know that they are loved,
and respected, and cared for.

We pray for those who are leaders in the world.

**May they remember that they are the ones
who have accepted the responsibility
of creating balance in an unbalanced world.**

May they remember that
they have taken on the task
of caring for many and few.

We pray for those who give
more time and talent than we can imagine.

We pray that they will feel supported.

**We pray that they will exemplify
justice and care and compassion.**

For health care workers

For educators

For farmers

For first responders

For police

For cooks, cleaners, connectors

We pray for

those who are angry and scared;

those who are hurting

those who are sick

those who are considered less

those who sorrow

We pray for ourselves
May we remember our responsibility
to look after your earth
and all that is in it and on it.

**Fill us with the courage and strength
to admit our mistakes,
to offer love and not hate,
to be such a blessing to your world
that you will, once again,
look upon your creation and name it good.
Amen.**

œBlessing

Let us go out into God's world
knowing the love of God is always with us.
Let us go out into God's world,
letting an abundance of God's love
overflow from us as blessings to the world.
Let us go out into God's world
but being the face of God in our communities.

May the grace of Jesus the Christ,
and the love of God,
and the strength of the Holy Spirit
be with all of us, today and always.
Amen.

Changing the Christ Candle:

The light of Christ, shining into all the corners of the earth,
showing us where we are and where we are meant to be.
The Spirit of God. Breathe it in...and know that God is with us
wherever we go.

Hymn: 🎵 MV#179 Who is my Mother?

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Acknowledgements

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*Leslie Dwight: Poem What if 2020 isn't cancelled? Facebook post. 2020.06