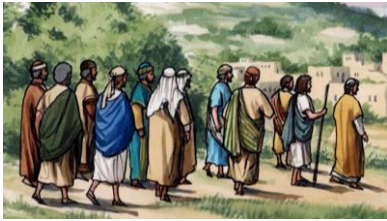


## Gospel lesson

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At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives His disciples the Great Commission:



picture from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-106-great-commission/>; credit: Good News Productions International and College Press Publishing

### Matthew 28:16-20

NRSV

<sup>16</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."

*The Word of God for the people of God*

<Interactive time>

According to UMCdiscipleship.org,

"Trinity Sunday invites us to celebrate the mystery of God's partnership in creation – Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit – calling us to join in God’s ongoing work of love and renewal.”

Why do we think of God in three persons?

<Let them respond; consider ways to relate>

If there are three, how can we say there is only one?

<Let them respond; consider complete harmony>

If the three persons of God are in complete harmony of purpose and humans are created in the image of God, how do you think we should relate to each other?

<Let them respond>

What enables harmony between people?

<Let them respond>



image from

<https://www.unyumc.org/annual-conference/2026>

Do you think we can do that passively when there is disharmony between people? <Let them respond>

With sin in the world, God calls us to take action, to share grace so that sin may be erased. To put it another way, I point to the theme of our Annual Conference this year: Rise up! and Love Boldly!

<resume sharing screen in Zoom >

I ask you to ponder how you personally may do that better as we praise our awesome God.

<Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” UMH #64>

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## Message: Spirit in Partnership: Good Stewardship



background picture from

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/god-poured-out/trinity-sunday-year-a-planning-worship/trinity-sunday-year-a-graphics>

For one of my classes this past semester, I wrote a sermon based on today's psalm and therefore am sharing it with you today.

Listen to what David sang in:

**Psalm 8 (NRSV)** *To the Leader: according to The Git'tith. A Psalm of David*

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouths of babes and infants

*Read together as a statement separate from lines around them*

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

<sup>4</sup> what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

- <sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,
- <sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,
- <sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- <sup>9</sup> O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Our God truly is majestic, worthy of all praise. How shall we live our thanks to God, who loves us so very much and charged us at Creation with taking care of the created world?

Please pray with me?

Almighty and glorious Creator, as we take time now to further consider today's scripture, please

- speak Your words through my mouth,
- open our ears to hear Your message, and
- abide in our hearts,

That we may seek to honor You through care for the charge You have given us, through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

I came to this area not knowing much about farming or taking care of dairy cows. It was Bruce Hakes who first told me about hoof trimming, that it is important to take care even of the cows' feet in order for them to produce well.

Over time I have learned a little more about the

tremendous number of things that must be managed well for a successful dairy farm, such as haying, breeding, equipment, and the health of the animals. There is so much intertwined, with cows at the center of it all - if the farmer did not care so much for them, the farm would fall apart and the dairy business would fail.

As Christians, we know God loves us so much She sent Her Son to die on the cross for us. Yet, in this psalm, we have someone observing God's love for us from a millennium before Jesus walked the earth.

The psalmist, possibly King David, proclaims how God made the earth with human beings as the most important part of creation. There is so much intertwined, with humanity at the center of it all - if the God did not care so much for people, creation would fall apart and humanity would die out.

How do we respond to our Creator, so majestic in name in all the earth, yet who crowned us with such glory and honor over the rest of creation? How do we thank God with suitable praise?

We can start by taking a moment, as the psalmist did, to consider our relationship with God and with the rest of the world. Today we see that God's creation is still beautiful, but some people are exploiting natural resources and other humans for short-term gain at the expense of long-term living conditions for much of humanity.

✝ Laws protecting clean air and water have been repealed for the sake of businessmen hungry for

profit.

- ✦ Programs are cut for “budget reasons,” yet there is money to wage genocidal wars overseas – and even an elaborate ballroom.
- ✦ Business emphasis is put on squeezing out higher profits at the expense of the ones doing the work, causing the gap between rich and poor to increase.

God did not treat lowly humans as something to profit from. God honored and blessed us with abundant grace, filling us with the breath of life, crowning us with glory, and setting us just below the divine. We cannot say we deserve it – we did nothing to earn it.

It is the grace of God lifting up the lowly that we see. And with that example of how lesser things are to be treated, God gave humanity stewardship of the rest of creation. If a dairy farm requires constant attention, how much more so does the entire world?

I want you to notice how God designed nature, as stated in this quote borrowed from ancient Eastern wisdom and attributed in social media to Pope Francis: “Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other.”<sup>1</sup> We do not have to do it all by ourselves – we are to work **with** nature, not in spite of it.

We are responsible for good stewardship of that which

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/pope-francis-rivers-do-not-drink/>, accessed 4/16/2026

God has entrusted us. God is glorified in all of creation, so we give God praise by caring for **all** of it. If even babies, the least of humanity, are praise for God, then they are to be nurtured, not exploited.

Exploitation of creation and people steals praise from God and expresses hatred of the Almighty. Instead, we should be living in a way that gives God praise and expresses the love of the Almighty. We should be striving:

- ✦ to keep waterways and air clean,
- ✦ to develop non-polluting energy sources,
- ✦ to protect wildlife from extinction due to human action,
- ✦ to make sure the basic needs of every human are met: food, clothing, shelter, & healthcare, and
- ✦ to stop war, which is an abomination, antithetical to the Creator's purpose - let alone when it involves genocide.

In all things, silence favors the one in power, which is where abusers who continue to abuse are. So, if we are to show the love of God and nurture instead of allowing exploitation, we have not just the option but the ethical and moral responsibility to speak out and work against acts of evil.

So please, for the love of God, speak up! Call our senators and representatives and demand that they work for what is good - not just for some groups, but for all people and for nature. Do your part in recycling and in caring for nature and in helping

people who are oppressed.

Let the Holy Spirit work glory through your words and actions. Our future - our world - depends upon it ... and God is watching. Amen.