

Front Street United Methodist Church

Trinity Sunday



Prelude

Prelude in E-flat Major, BWV 552/i¹

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy²

UMH, 64

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

The Word, *Read*

Psalm 8

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

You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

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

Matthew 28:16–20

When Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, 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, *Proclaimed*

Senior Reflections

The Scriptures in Conversation

Offering & Meditation



Take this time to reflect prayerfully on this icon, which depicts the unity and distinction of the three persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At God's table there is space also for us: holy communion.



Andrei Rublev, "The Trinity," ca. 1425, tempera on wood panel, Moscow, Russia.

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God,
 Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Response

Alleluia Verse

William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947)

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major. The first staff begins in 3/2 time and ends with a double bar line. The second staff begins in 4/4 time and ends with a double bar line. The third staff begins in 4/2 time and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia,
 al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia,
 al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Hymn

Maker, in Whom We Live⁴

UMH, 88

1. Mak-er, in whom we live, in whom we are and move, the
2. In - car-nate De - i - ty, let all the ran-somed race ren -
3. Spir - it of Ho - li - ness, let all thy saints a - dore thy
4. E - ter-nal, Tri - une God, let all the hosts a - bove, let

glo - ry, power, and praise re - ceive for thy cre - at - ing love.
der in thanks their lives to thee for thy re - deem - ing grace.
sa - cred en - er - gy, and bless thine heart - re - new - ing power.
all on earth be - low re - cord and dwell up - on thy love.

Let all the an - gel throng give thanks to God on high, while
The grace to sin - ners showed ye heav - en - ly choirs pro - claim, and
Not an - gel tongues can tell thy love's ec - stat - ic height, the
When heaven and earth are fled be - fore thy glo - rious face, sing

earth re - peats the joy - ful song and ech - oes to the sky.
cry, "Sal - va - tion to our God, sal - va - tion to the Lamb!"
glo - rious joy un - speak - a - ble, the be - a - tif - ic sight.
all the saints thy love hath made thine ev - er - last - ing praise.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all and grant us peace.

Our hope is the Father.

Our refuge is the Son.

Our shelter is the Holy Spirit.

O Holy Trinity, glory to you!

Amen.

A Note on Our Seniors

We honor the Class of 2020 for the faithfulness and growth they have shown these last years, and for the ways that they have added color and shape to our youth programs at Front Street. We pray for their transition into college, and look forward to all God will do in and through them in the years to come.

They are:

- Stephen Andress, Bishop McGuinness High School – will attend Clemson University
- Evan Gilgo, Walter M. Williams High School – will attend The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Claire Piatt, Western Alamance High School – will attend the University of Richmond

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Worship Notes:

¹ This monumental prelude is the opening to J. S. Bach's *Clavierübung III*, which was a keyboard collection published in 1739 that contains, in addition to an opening prelude and a closing fugue, chorale preludes and other works for the German Mass. A work appropriate for Trinity Sunday, the prelude is in a key with three flats and three themes with three different musical styles, a French overture (in the style of Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687)), an Italian galant, and a German fugue. Scholars have suggested that these three themes represent the three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit respectively.

² The text of this hymn, written to be sung on Trinity Sunday, is an excellent example of the hymns Reginald Heber (1783-1826) wrote for specific times in the Christian year. Drawing from biblical passages such as Revelation 4:8-11, in which the elders give homage to God, and from the vision in Isaiah 6, the text calls the worshiper to unite in praise with those of biblical times. The tune NICAIA, by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876), is a perfect match to Heber's text. Dykes has cleverly interrelated its opening and reiterated triadic (three-tone) motif with the doctrine of the Trinity formulated at the Council of Nicaea, AD 325.

³ Bryan and Katie Torwalt are a husband and wife duo from Sacramento, California who started their music recording careers in 2006. Since their beginnings, the Torwalts have created soundscapes and music that invites worship of the living God as praise and exaltation. This particular song, “Holy Spirit,” invokes the Holy Spirit as the force that brings us into the full presence of God, and speaks to the longing within us that wishes to rest in God’s embrace. A fitting call to praise the glory and mystery of the triune God.

⁴ Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was one of the Christian faith’s greatest hymnists, writing well over 6,000 hymns and poems in his lifetime, and the younger brother of John Wesley (1703–1791). First published in 1747, “Maker, in Whom We Live” was originally titled “To the Trinity,” as each stanza in this hymn describes one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. The first stanza discusses angels and earth exalting God, our Creator. The second stanza expresses praise to God the Son, who gives redeeming grace to all, even sinners. The third stanza conveys God as the Holy Spirit, with all energy and power, and expresses how we cannot explain God’s love for us. The last stanza invites all to sing and praise the unity of the God we call Trinity.