

Celebrating Our God beyond Understanding

The festival of The Holy Trinity celebrates the wonder of relationship with God while leaving us distinctly dissatisfied with our limited understanding of what God is. While guarding against the idolatry of language, we survey our scripture, doctrine, creeds, and symbols of our heritage. Equally important, we pray for God to inspire fresh, innovative ideas of God in the present moment.

Today's gospel contains one of the few biblical references to the trinitarian formula. As the eleven are commissioned to make disciples, baptize, and teach, we are invited to consider our calling to influence the world with the good news of God's love. The text from Second Corinthians also includes a kind of naming of The Holy Trinity in an affectionate sign-off of a personal letter. With the psalm praising God the creator and sustainer of all creation, Genesis 1 relates the first of two creation stories, this one an ancient liturgy celebrating God as a divine plural.

That God that is beyond our understanding may be both troubling and comforting. The temptation may be to attempt to apprehend the idea of God with our intellect, offering the worshiping assembly a showcase of various models for God. The result is usually disappointing and feeds our bias toward intellectualism. Another possibility is to celebrate God's presence in all its glory and colorful wonder and our belonging to this wonder-full God.



300 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

*A Congregation of the New England Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Pastor

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music

Mijin Choi

Office Administrator

Robin Aldieri

The Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020

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.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Washington Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting

Pastor, The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs Minister of Music, Mijin Choi

June 7, 2020

The Holy Trinity

P Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

Peace be with you. While the world is addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, keep your focus on God our Father in heaven who will never leave you nor forsake you. Please do not take any unnecessary risks during this time. Wear a mask in public, wash your hands before you leave your house and when you enter your house. Sanitizing your phone is a good idea also. When you feel afraid pray this prayer: “When I’m afraid, I put my trust in you, Lord.” (Psalm 56:3)

If you would like to receive Faith Lutheran Church’s monthly newsletters, email the church office at churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org. If you would like to join our Zoom online worship services, please email the church office or call us at 860-347-6068 and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you.

For pastoral emergencies, please text or call Pastor Cathy Rohrs (pronounced “roars”) at 717-321-6799.

May God bless you and keep you.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Lee Kozlowski
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT: Elizabeth Rohrs
SOLOIST: Robert Cinnante
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Gathering Hymn: “*Come, Join the Dance of Trinity*” ELW #412

- 1 Come, join the dance of 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 within their dance.
- 2 Come, see the face of Trinity,
newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns
outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant
for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in 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 Savior'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.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953
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Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Kyrie

“In peace, let us pray...” ELW pg. 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God...” ELW pg., 213

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

³ For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on

earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made

the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God 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.” ²⁹God 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. ³⁰And 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. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

¹O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²**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 avenger.**

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you put all things under their feet:**

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁹O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, 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. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the Twenty-Eighth Chapter.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

P Here ends the Gospel.
C Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "God, Whose Almighty Word" ELW #673

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.
- 2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.
- 4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

We Offer To God

Nicene Creed

C 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 has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

A God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation especially amidst this pandemic. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to steward waterways, plant life, birds, fish, insects, and mammals and call them good. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. We pray for those in our armed services, especially... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of care, you created us in your image. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need (especially). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of companionship, you accompany this body of faith. As the rhythms of summer begin, protect all who travel, renew all who will enjoy a time of sabbath, and shelter all who will not be protected from the coronavirus. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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 the saints who were in our lives (especially). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering

Opportunities for giving: Please put your offering in our *locked mailbox*, mail your offering to the church, give from your *online banking* app, or use our church *website* www.faiithelcamiddletown.org to donate by clicking on the “donate here” button.

Musical Offering: *"Simple Gifts"* Arranged by Aaron Copland

Tenor: Robert Cinnante

The Offering Prayer

A Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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 and ever. Amen.

Sending

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: *"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty"* ELW #413

- 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY, June 14, 2020

ASSISTING MINISTER: Lee Kozlowski
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT: Elizabeth Rohrs
SOLOIST: Robert Cinnante
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Lessons & Psalm

Romans 5:1-8

(While we were sinners, Christ died for us)

Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]

(The sending of the Twelve)

Semicontinuous First Reading and Psalm

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

(The Lord appears to Abraham and Sarah)

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

(I will call on the name of the Lord)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(*events are presented via Zoom)

Sunday, June 7	9:00 a.m.	The Holy Trinity Worship*
Monday, June 8	7:30 p.m.	AA*
Wednesday, June 10	6:00 p.m.	WTW To Go
Friday, June 12	7:30 p.m.	AA*
	10:00 p.m.	Until the Wheels Fall Off NA*
Saturday, June 13	5:30 p.m.	Basically Lit NA*
Sunday, June 14	9:00 a.m.	Worship*

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Prayer Requests

Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!

Mission Partners: Genesis Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT and Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, MI.

Mission Supporters: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, New England Synod Bishop James Hazelwood, Director of Evangelical Mission Kim Bergstrand, and Associate to the Bishop Mark Winzler.

Church Council: Donna Barney (Secretary); Ellen Cassady; Margaret D'Aquila; Mark Diehl (Assistant Treasurer); Heather Karpe; Lee Kozlowski (Vice President); Tom Kugeman (Treasurer); Steve McDermott (President); Pastor Cathy S. Rohrs; Bill Tacke (Financial Secretary); and John Twining.

Prayer Team: Donna Barney, Margaret D'Aquila, Sue Girard, Janet Hayn; Liz Helbig, Heather Karpe, Rick Karpe, Carolyn Krenz, Tom Kugeman and Janet Wright.

Health Issues: Beverly Radziwon, David Gionfriddo; Fred Rau; Earl Woike; and Giulio Giuffrida as well as our fellow Americans residing in Flint, MI who are still living with inadequate water quality, our NA and AA attendees, ACES families, and the people of United Pentecostal Church.

Life issues: The family and friends of George Fuchs, Rich Radziwan, Beverly Pitkin, Ruth Anderson, Stephanie Wagar, Anthony Matthews, Winnie May, Ed Blasco, Joseph McDermott, Archie Smith, David Albanese, Megan Brancifort.

Please remember Faith Lutheran Church in your estate and funeral donation planning.

Purpose of Faith Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our new church is to unite unconditionally, sharing God's love through our growing faith and mission with everyone in the name of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles of Faith Lutheran Church

*—Committed to serve
—Forward thinking, future oriented
—Welcoming
—Guided by faith
—Fun, relevant, cool—a place people want to be*

Our Church's Strategic Direction

*Addressing Hunger in Middletown;
Sharing Knowledge;
Serving & Empowering Youth & Seniors;
How? Coordinating assets in our Community to meet needs;
and Communicating about resources & events.*

Contact Information

Website: www.faithelcamiddletown.org

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The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs, Pastor

Please call or text Pastor Rohrs - cell phone: (717) 321-6799 or email: pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com