



Russian icon depicting the three visitors to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18)

Trinity Sunday

We celebrate the unfathomable mystery of God's being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God.

The triune God is the basis of all our prayers — we pray to God the Father, *through* Jesus Christ, *by* the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity holds central place in our faith.



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Historic Past • Contemporary Presence • Exciting Future

Trinity Sunday

May 27, 2018

Organist.....Mr. Frederick Bolden

Pastor The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

We Assemble in God's Name

Organ Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Gathering in Song (seated) "This is the Day"# 590

Welcome

Prayer of Preparation (unison): Heavenly God, this is a day that you have made, so we will rejoice and be glad in it. Remind us that to serve you we carry an obligation to live into your truths, into your wisdom and into your spirit. Remind us that an obligation to you is not slavery, but a liberation. Encourage us to shake off the burdens of this world to allow us to feel free in Your presence, so we might rejoice in Your love with shouts of praise. In one voice we say thank you, hallelujah and amen.

Chimes

*Call to Worship

from Isaiah 6

Leader: I have heard the voice of the Lord

People: *Whom shall I send? Who will go for us...?*

Leader: Go and tell the people:

All: *Here I am—send me!*

*Hymn of Praise..... "God of Our Fathers"# 573

Announcements and Celebrations

Welcome of Visitors

* Passing of the Peace +

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

People: Peace be with you! Let us now share the peace of God with one another.

(Congregation greets one another, exchanging words of peace.)

Special Music "Just a Little Talk With Jesus" The Choir

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison): Forgiving Lord, I try to serve you; I try to live a good and righteous life; I try to be all that you would have me to be; however, sometimes- too many times- I seek to live as I want to and seek success how I want to and believe in what I want to. I have not lived as You would have me because I have lied this week; I have been selfish this week; I have shown hate towards my neighbor and even towards you. Loving God, please find favor with me, in spite of me. Lead me to trust in You and the promises You have made. Guide me to wholeness. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon..... *from John 3:16-17*

Pastor: Did you hear what I heard? God loves us so much that whoever believes in the faith of Christ, his faith unto death, whoever believes should not die, but find everlasting life.

People: *God did not send God's Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!*

Invitation to Prayer and Prayer Concerns

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

All: *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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Prayer Response..... "In the Presence of Jehovah"The Choir

We Proclaim God's Word

Scripture Lesson Romans 8:12-17 page 1372

Special Music "Leave It There" The Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

We Respond to God's Word

*Invitation to Discipleship

*Hymn of Commitment "Here I Am, Lord" # 525 Blue

*An Affirmation of Faith -- 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 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.

* Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father"# 623

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory (unison): Lord, we thank you for this day and we thank you for this opportunity to live our lives, and to live them full of the hope and joy that come from You. Lord, we could not have done it without You and we are thankful. We are grateful for the blessings you have given to us and we are glad that we can return some of your goodness to the church, to be used for the building of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

* Choral Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee.

We Go in God's Name

Charge and Benediction

We Carry Our Light Into the World (Congregation Seated)

"This Little Light of Mine"

*Those who are able may stand

+ Late worshipers seated

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you have joined us in worship today. Please fill out the card that the ushers gave you at the door. We hope to see you here again soon. Anyone who is interested in joining this part of Christ's church should speak to the pastor or one of the elders.

Remember our Shut-Ins, Friends, and Members

Mr. Bob Hale—Salem Health & Rehabilitation Center, 556-6680
1945 Roanoke Blvd, Salem VA 24153

Mr. Jim Slaughter—1219 Grayson Ave NW (24017) 366-0391

+ Notes from the Pastor +

- Bible Study: *"Forming Faith"* meets Tuesdays at 6 pm here at the church.
- Office hours this week: By appointment—contact wendeeS@hotimail.com, or call the office—540.542.0264

+ Other Announcements +

- This Sunday begins "Casual Summer Sundays" through Labor Day weekend - no potluck today!
- The Adult Choir meets as announced. Come join the fellowship. New members are welcomed.
- *Remember*: No one should have to choose between paying rent and feeding their family. Bring a food offering to share with those who need our help.
- Check out our web page: www.5thavepresbychurchroanoke.com
- Copies of the Black Caucus newsletter, "Colorful Peaks", are on the back table.
- June 3—(next Sunday) Holy Communion and Hunger Offering

Congregational Prayer and Pastoral Concerns

For our nation and its leadership, for President Trump; for our state and local officials, and those elected to national office— for wisdom and compassion, for a spirit of cooperation and the overcoming of barriers; for a capacity to seek the greater good instead of personal gain

For the leaders of other countries, and the efforts of all who seek to bring peace to the world—for North and South Korea; for Iran; for Israel/Palestine; for Syria; for The Congo (*also the Ebola outbreak*)

For our enemies, both personal and national, including terrorists

For our pastor and his family; for our ministry together

For unity in the Church, cooperation among denominations, for people of other faiths and for those who have no faith

For all who mourn the deaths of loved ones and friends: for victims of violence; victims of *mass shootings*; *survivors of recent tornados* in our region and other communities dealing with the aftermath of both natural disasters and manmade accidents, & for those who work to help them rebuild their lives; for those suffering from famine and hunger; for people in our own Roanoke & SW Virginia region

For those battling cancer & other health and life-challenging issues, for those dealing with depression, with addiction; for those recovering from illness or surgery: Priscilla Preston, Bob Hale, Terry Campbell, Audra Williams, Ernestine Johnson, Pat Brown (Ruth's sister), Carolyn Coleman (cousin of Joyce & Fred), Rev. Dusty Fiedler, Anita Pendleton, Jim Slaughter, The Roberson family, Ruth Hilton, Brenda Williams, Jackie Manns, Harold Robertson, Paul Witting (with Parkinson's); Robert Woodworth; health care workers and researchers; for the elderly

For our children and youth; for their teachers & school staff; for those in our neighborhood; for those who work with young people and seek to bring them to Christ and to nurture their faith in him

For our service men and women stationed around the world and their families

For those who seek employment, for the under-employed, for the homeless, for those who are in fear of losing their homes or their jobs; for those under stress at work and at home.

Betsy Haskins and family, whose grandson, Asher, is having minor surgery; she is traveling to South Carolina to take care of the other 3 while her son, daughter-in-law and Asher are at the hospital.

Glenn Christy, Ray's co-worker who had a malignant tumor removed from his abdomen. He has two boys approximately 10 and 13 years old.

TRINITY SUNDAY

On Trinity Sunday we proclaim the mystery of our faith in the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One-in-Three and Three-in-One.

The celebration of Trinity Sunday began among Western Christians in the 10th century and developed slowly until it was formally established on the Sunday after Pentecost by Pope John XXII (1316-1334).

UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY

Unlike other festivals in the church's liturgical calendar, Trinity Sunday centers on a *doctrine* of the church, rather than an *event*. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God's being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God.

Trinity Sunday, in a sense, synthesizes all we have celebrated over the past months which have centered on God's mighty acts: Christmas-Epiphany celebrating God's taking flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus Christ; Easter celebrating Christ's death and resurrection for us; Pentecost celebrating God the Holy Spirit becoming our Sanctifier, Guide, and Teacher. It is, therefore, a fitting transition to that part of the year when Sunday by Sunday the work of God among us is unfolded in a more general way.

The triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. In the name of this triune God we are baptized. As the baptized ones we bear the name of the triune God in our being. We are of the family of the triune God. We affirm this parentage when, in reciting the creeds, we say what we believe. Our discipleship is rooted in the mighty acts of this triune God who is active in redeeming the world.

In celebrating Trinity Sunday, remember that every Lord's Day is consecrated to the triune God. On the first day of the week, God began creation. On the first day of the week, God raised Jesus from the grave. On the first day of the week, the Holy Spirit descended on the newly born church. Every Sunday is special. Every Sunday is a day of the Holy Trinity.

(An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 149-150))