

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

June 7, 2020

For video viewing of music and service go to:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEO_pAVddaeV1_dOvvUd5eITX0IJKxqmM

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: *Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

*THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

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. ⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

***THE SECOND LESSON**

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

[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.

***THE GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 28:16-20

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."

SERMON: PASTOR RICHARD CARBAUGH

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Paul ends his letters to the Corinthians as we end our worship sometimes, with this benediction that sums up and describes the God we worship - Lord, God, Holy Spirit; grace, love, communion. It reminds us of the one in whom we are Baptized - "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." On this Holy Trinity Sunday, I would like to have us think about this God we worship in three persons, this one God who has been made known to us in three significant and powerful ways.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that 'all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. When we cry "Abba! Father!", it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.' Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, used the word 'Abba' to speak to the Father. The best way to translate 'Abba' into our language is to use the word 'Daddy'. It is a word that suggest a very familiar, intimate relationship.

For many, the image of God is one of awesome greatness, the creator of the universe, the one who sets the Israelites free through a series of powerful acts. God is 'El-Shaddai' - the thundering God of Sinai before whom Israel trembled. God is 'Elohim' - the God above all gods who formed the earth from the swirling, chaotic waters. God is, as the hymn proclaims: "Immortal, invisible, God only wise. In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes...". This is the wholly other God. Who could begin to feel up close and personal with such a God? But now the Holy Spirit has come, and this Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to call this God 'Daddy'. We do so knowing that this God is still awesome and powerful, but who is now also the God who is genuinely concerned about us. This all powerful God also wants to kiss our skinned knees, wants us to come as to a loving parent with all our needs. To call God 'Daddy' is not to trivialize God, but rather to make God more real to us.

Sadly, there are some people whose experience of their father was not a very positive one, so when we talk of God as father it doesn't make them feel closer.

We must take care to see our earthly images as very imperfect reflections of God's love. We, of course, also know that the Bible contains many feminine images of God as well. What that tells us is that we can never pin God down to one image, but that all images help us appreciate and know God all the more. When we see and experience God in different ways, our understanding grows.

I have known some children who have wanted to call their father by his first name. I guess the idea is to want a more 'adult' relationship. One such child asked if he could call his father by his first name, and the father didn't object. The father did point out something, however. He said: "You can call me by my first name if you like. There are hundreds of people who do. But there are only three people in the world who can call me Dad. Which name do you think carries more weight?" It must have been quite an impact on the disciples when Jesus prayed to God as: "Abba! Daddy!"

When I think about Jesus, there is, of course, a lot that comes to mind. I think about the little girl who lived in an orphanage. She was shy and unpopular - and the staff experienced her as a real problem child. One day, the director noticed her walking toward the front gate. Afraid she might run away, he followed her. When she reached the gate, the little girl stopped and placed a note on a branch of a tree that hung over the sidewalk. When she left, the director went over to the tree and opened the note. He smiled and put it back on the branch. In large letters she had written: "To anyone who finds this note - "I love you". Perhaps you are struggling with something in your life. Perhaps you have fallen into a place of fear or uncertainty. Perhaps your experience of God has become too limited or routine. For the world, for you, God in Jesus has put a message on the tree of the cross which says: "To anyone who finds this, 'I love you'."

And then, there is the Holy Spirit. Perhaps your experience of the Holy Spirit will be like the small boy who had to walk past a dark, spooky house each evening. Having no choice but to go that direction, he was very much afraid each time he went by. Of course, he got all kinds of advice from others. Some tried to bolster his courage with words like 'nothing is going to happen - don't worry'. One person gave him a good luck charm that promised to ward off any evil thing. Another had a light put on the corner of the street. And still another let him know that it was sinful to be afraid, so he just had to trust God more and be brave. Unfortunately, none of that advice eased his fears - and we can probably understand why. Then someone said to him: "I know what it is to be afraid. So I will walk with you past that house." Isn't that a description of the Holy Spirit - the one who walks with us past our fears? As Jesus said: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age". So there it is - "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Which leads me to one final story. You may recall Derek Redmund. Derek was a track star who was a sure bet to win a gold medal in the 400 meter race. He got off to a great start and moved well ahead of the other runners. Just short of the finish line, however, Derek collapsed, screaming in pain. He had ruptured his Achilles tendon some 50 meters from what would have been a certain victory. Out of the stand came Derek's father who made it to the track. There, he lifted his injured son off the ground, put his arm around his shoulder and helped him cross the finish line. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This God we worship and follow and adore wants us to remember: 'I am the one who has come down, picked you up, and will carry you across the finish line, carry you home. Remember, I am the one who will walk with you when you are afraid. Indeed, when you walk in the dark of your confusion and questions - you are not alone. When you sit beside the bed of a loved one - you are not alone. When you face bad news and don't know where to turn - you are not alone. When you confront an uncertain future - you are not alone. This is the God we celebrate today. This is the God who is grace, love and communion.

To you who are members of Messiah Lutheran, this is my last sermon as you will now have the joy of receiving God's Word from Pastor Ryan who begins his ministry with you. It has been a joy to walk this journey with you as you hoped and waited and worked toward your future, toward God's future. I pray God's blessing on your ministry together. Thank you for your kindness, your love and your support over this past year. As we go forward, may we all live in the words of Jesus: "Remember, I am with you always, to the close of the age". The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

***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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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**

***PRAYERS**

A: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world. (*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. 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 see 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. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice in often ignored communities (like Chief Seattle, whom we commemorate today). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. 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 sun's heat. 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 in our lives (especially). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, our church as they face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of love ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of families. For all our Messiah families and especially this week for the Delph and Dworak families. For the talents and good things You have given each of them. Keep them united and faithful to You and each other. Guide them, protect them and equip them to do Your will. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO YOU!

It's hard to believe that a year has passed and that today is Pastor Carbaugh's last day as Interim at Messiah Lutheran Church. We have been truly blessed by his being with us and wish the best for he and Cindy as he begins Retirement Phase #2 at Smith Mountain Lake! His new address is 2100 Crafts Ford Road, Wirtz, VA 24184. Although physically apart, we all can celebrate his ministry with us. Godspeed Pastor Carbaugh! Stay well, good and faithful servant!

WELCOME PASTOR RYAN!

Tomorrow, June 8, Pastor Ryan will begin his call to Messiah! Although original plans for his physical presence have been delayed until July 1, Pastor Ryan will be available by email at messiahmechpr@gmail.com; and by phone at (507)-360-7276 . His 'office' hours will be 11am – 8 pm since California is three hours earlier in time than Virginia. This is such an exciting but strange time for us as we continue to worship from afar. Pastor Ryan will continue to provide sermons for our Digital Sunday services and his Midweek Message will begin on June 17. We wish Pastor Ryan and family a safe transition to Virginia when they are able to do so. Church council will continue to provide future updates to the congregation as necessary.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Beginning March 8th, we began providing a summary of the financial well-being of our congregation. Here is this week's information:

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$3141 through May 31st (up from \$3031 on May 24th).
- We are \$5790.21 behind the year-to-date budget needs (up from \$7829.41 behind the budget the week prior).

THANK YOU TO OUR CHRISTIAN FORMATION VOLUNTEERS

The first Sunday of June is typically when Christian Formation Volunteers are recognized and honored. Today is no exception. With great appreciation Messiah thanks Lois Schroeder and Marilyn Gunn (Preschool Sunday School class); Diana Sondor and Wendy DeGraff (Elementary Sunday School class); Becky Collie (Teens & Tweens Sunday School class); Daren Williams (Adult Sunday School leader); Tracey Anderson (Gospel Fun Time coordinator); Valerie Williams (Women's Bible Study coordinator); and Donna Combs (substitute teacher and event organizer). Thank you everyone for your selfless gifts of time and talent. Messiah is truly grateful for all that you do!

PLEASE APPLY BY JUNE 22: JOAN BARNES SCHOLARSHIP

Church Council wants to remind possible candidates that applications for the Joan Barnes Scholarship are available on the church website, <https://messiahmech.com/> under the "ABOUT" tab. Please note that all applications are due no later than June 22nd to the church office. All information along with the application has also been put on the church website. If you have specific questions about the scholarship or application process, please contact Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com and she will assist you.

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

A thank you was received this past week from the Virginia Synod for our continued support with our monthly benevolence payment to their office. "As we all grapple with the impact of COVID-19, we want you to know how much we appreciate your congregation's partnership in the Virginia Synod. Thank you for being church together even as we find ourselves physically separated." 60% of our offering to them supports ministries in Virginia. The remaining 40% is shared with the ELCA Churchwide Organization to support a variety of programs including COVID-19 resources.

CAROLINE FURNACE, CAMP AT HOME

'Camp at Home' (\$0-50) is an exciting online Summer Camp through Caroline Furnace! Camp at Home will have live, small group "cabin time" once a week, plus large group and pre-recorded praise breaks, fun activities that you can do at home, Bible studies, BYOL (bring your own lunch) community time, FAITH5, and daily vlogs from our Program Directors, Andy and Caroline. Long story short, Camp at Home is guaranteed to be lots of fun! Registration for 'Camp at Home' is now open at no cost. Sign up for 'Camp in a Box' (\$50) if you'd like to get fun camp surprises and activity supplies delivered right to your door! To Register go to: <https://carolinefurnace.campbrainregistration.com/>.

To view a schedule go to:

[https://static.wixstatic.com/media/da5cfb_a13255e3bcb94884ba90c4eb5a7ff549~mv2.png/v1/fill/w_1403,h_388,al_c,q_90/Screenshot%20\(43\).webp](https://static.wixstatic.com/media/da5cfb_a13255e3bcb94884ba90c4eb5a7ff549~mv2.png/v1/fill/w_1403,h_388,al_c,q_90/Screenshot%20(43).webp)

PANDEMIC HOPE: A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL FOR LIFE DURING COVID-19

Built around "Faith 5", *Pandemic Hope* is a Devotional for families that focuses on the new realities we are all living in each day. It provides daily readings and activities for 8 weeks to work together with those who you are staying safe at home with. To read and download this devotional go to:

https://www.vasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Pandemic_Faith_Devotional.pdf

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To continue in your faithful giving, mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco which is available on the church website. See messiahmech.com for more details.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those who would like to place announcements in our Sunday 'ebulletin' please send them to Donna Shaw at dmshaw70@gmail.com by Wednesday for inclusion.

Prayer List

WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Kenneth Deere	"Doc" Kondaki
Adam Dworak, Sr.	Linda Krupa
JoAn Firebaugh	Mac McAllister
Bill Fulop	Roberta McMillen
Elisabeth Gardner	Pat Motley
Werner Gardner	Nathan, Ruth Schroeder & family
Steve Gilnett	Judy Schwerdtfeger
Geoffrey Honan	

WE PRAY FOR OUR EXTENDED FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

Danny Allen, friend of the Whirleys
Boyd Allison, friend of Jean Wightman.
Family and Friends of Dennis Anderson, father of James Anderson.
Joe Griffin, friend of Anne Mason.
Pete Gunn, friend of the Schwerdtfeger's
Christina Nibali, sister of Anita Philip.
Dee Schroeder, sister-in-law of Roger.
Tim Schroeder, nephew of Roger.
Family and friends of Wanda Umlauf, Vicar Ginny Banister's mother
T.J., grandson of the Whirleys.

Pastor Carbaugh, as he walks with us in this interim time
Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families
All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders
The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine, of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry

Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The World Health Organization Medical researchers and scientists
Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies
For all who travel