

St. Timothy's Banner

Trinity Sunday 2020



Jn. 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

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In My Name

By Do Fox

In My name means in My Being,
You experience My nearness to you
Through the action of this Spirit within you.
Since I indwell those who love Me
Then there will be no secrets between us.
You will plainly know, and experience
The Largeness of the Heart of the Trinity.
Eternity is the crown
We place on your head,
And knowledge of our Great Love for you
Is the transforming action
That sows seeds of Life, of Light, within you.
How we long for your trust and love!
Simply believe, like a child
Depending on his parent's love and provision.
It is so simple.
Hunger for us, the Three in One,
Is the doorway through which We reach
Our Love, Our Power, and Our Grace,
To save you.



Knowing the Triune God



By Rev. Dan Endresen

Trinity Sunday

“Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was” (John 17:1-5 NKJV).

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (John 17:20-23 NKJV).

Jesus’ prayer for his disciples is a wonderful prayer that even we who have believed on Jesus through the witness of the original disciples are included in. Jesus frames this prayer speaking of his glory and the authority that the Father had given him – authority to give eternal life to whoever the Father has given to Jesus. And Jesus goes on and says that knowing the Father and knowing himself is eternal life. So, knowing Jesus, and knowing the Father, is of utmost importance – a matter of eternal life or not. But how do we come to know them? The answer is simple. How do we come to know anyone? By spending time connecting, conversing, and communing with them. Jesus had done all those things with his disciples. And doing so he also revealed the Father to them so that they knew him as well. Jesus had said “...if you had known me, you would have known the Father also; and from now on you know

him and have seen him” (John 14:7)...He said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (14:9b). He also said this of the Holy Spirit, “...you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17). You see Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit have the same nature and same personality. They also have the same will and purpose in everything they do. If you know one, you know them all. The three of them simply have different functions – and Jesus had a human nature and human will [which he yielded to his Father in Heaven] as well. Is knowing Jesus knowing God’s personality? That is where it gets really interesting.

What is personality? Wikipedia says, “...there is no generally agreed upon definition of personality...”, and yet goes on to define it as “the characteristic sets of behaviors, conditions, and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors”. That definition cannot work for God, as God does not change or evolve. Merriam-Webster defines “personality” the same as we would “personhood”, as “the quality or state of being a person, and not an abstraction, thing or lower being...”. That definition can work for God as God is a person, (as Jesus, or as “one of the three modes of being in the Trinitarian Godhead as understood by Christians” Merriam-Webster) but it is so vague and general that it tells us little. Another meaning or usage is, “the complex of characteristics [or set of distinctive traits] that distinguishes an individual...” But what then is individuality? When you compare secular definitions of the two words, “personality” and “individuality”, you find there is no real difference. But what if we look at those two words from a Christian perspective?

From a Christian perspective, Oswald Chambers delivered what I find to be the best take on “personality” versus “individuality”. In his view, as I read it, individuality is a natural, God given, outer shell of independence for the purpose of self-

preservation (or preservation of the natural individual), meant to protect the inner person (or true personality in its original form) from being hurt by outer and negative forces [perhaps by malevolent people, spirits or even negative experiences]. Individuality then, (not personality) is what “is formed from biological factors and developed from environmental factors”. Perhaps individuality came with the fall and was God’s gift of covering for self-preservation until Christ. As such, one’s individuality should not be used to keep God or other loving and caring people at a distance. In faith and trust, in the presence of God, (and trusted human beings who have our best interest in mind), the shell of individuality is purposely put away. Putting our individuality away for the sake of union with another loving personality, one becomes enriched. In communion with another (good) personality we bare the deepest recesses of our souls – and share things we would not share with anyone else. Doing so we give over our right of individuality, to the one we confide in, trusting that they will not only accept us, but help us in our weakness – and we depend on them. With God, trust can be more easily given than with other human beings, because God is perfect and good. We can trust His perfect character thoroughly, and we don’t have to worry about confidentiality as we do with other human beings. With humans we can only trust in as far as we are willing to risk, or trust God’s Spirit working in the other. But many of us make that commitment in marriage, regardless.

That brings us to the Christian perspective on personality which Oswald Chambers wrote about, saying, “Personality is the characteristic of the spiritual man as individuality is the characteristic of the natural man”. “Personality merges, and you only reach your real identity when you are merged with another person. When love, or the Spirit of God comes upon a person, he is transformed. He will then no longer insist on maintaining his individuality” (*My Utmost for His Highest*, Devotional Dec.11-12).

Marriage can be a natural analogy of what happens to us spiritually when we commit to Jesus. In marriage, the two become one flesh – but the decision to marry really begins the whole process. The decision to accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour begins

the process of commitment to him. As in marriage, the commitment continues, not only in baptism [or confirmation], but is lifelong and daily.

Now let’s get back to where we began – my asking about God’s personality. We know that Jesus had a personality which he shared with the Father and the Holy Spirit. So, the above description of personality from Chambers fits well for Jesus - only his personality would not need to be merged with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as they were always united. So, with whom might God’s personality merge? It is almost unfathomable, but Jesus made merging God’s and our personalities possible, and he offers that to us. What then is different in the characteristic of “personality” with regard to Jesus (being God and human) from the characteristic of “personality” with regard to us (redeemed humans)? Not much, if anything, especially if “personality” is what God had given to humanity, as a supernatural gift, to commune with him and know him in the first place (“image” and “likeness” of God from Genesis 1:26). Because humanity forfeited relationship with God in the garden of Eden, seeking to usurp his authority, something had to be done to preserve it. By God’s grace humanity was given a natural and temporary covering (tunics of skin) for their exposed “nakedness”, and vulnerability, and their new individuality (and identity), was helped along temporarily by the gift of conscience (and eventually God’s law) until Jesus came and redeemed humanity on the cross. Jesus’ incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and final glorification made it possible for him to then gift those who turned, believed and submitted to him, with the Holy Spirit, thus merging God’s personality (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) with theirs.

What we find different (or missing) in the human side of Jesus (besides sin) is, in fact, individuality, which he did not need, and which he rejected. We Christians are phenomenally blessed, beyond what we can comprehend, knowing God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, which is, as Jesus said, eternal life, because Jesus rejected individuality on earth in preference to maintaining oneness with God, doing God’s will even as a human being.



What is the Trinity

By Deacon Alan Arnold



What is the Trinity? Does this word even occur in the Bible? If the word is not used in the Bible, is the concept expressed in Scripture, and how? For disciples of Christ, these are all valid and important questions.

To start answering these questions, the word Trinity is never used in the Scriptures but the concept is prevalent in the New Testament (NT) and there are hints throughout the Old Testament (OT).

In fact, the first word for God in the OT is Elohim which implies a plurality of persons in the Godhead, starting in Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning, God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth."* Elohim is the active cause in the creation narrative through to 2:3 and then in 2:4 we have *"These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD [Yahweh - singular] God [Elohim] made the earth and the heavens."*

Do we have any indication of the different personae of Elohim? Well, we have the Spirit: Genesis 1: 2 *"And the Spirit of God [Elohim] was hovering over the face of the waters."*

And the Son [if we jump to the NT for John 1:1–3 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."*]

Let us complete our quick look at some of hints in the OT with the SHEMA, Deuteronomy 6:4 *"Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is one."* The configuration of the word "one" here infers a unity in diversity.

The strongest expressions of the Trinity in the NT are probably: Matthew 28:19 *"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,"*; 2 Corinthians 13:14 *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*; and also John 10:30 *"I and the Father are one."*

So the concept of the Trinity (or tri-unity, if that

helps in understanding) is there in both the OT and NT, but I have no better understanding of the how the three personae are one than most of us and are quite happy to wait until I am with the Lord in heaven to receive full comprehension.

But the manner in which the Trinity is responsible for our salvation is much more important, and for that we have to go back to the beginning.

Then Genesis 1:26 *"Then God [Elohim] said, ***Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.****

And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." and 2:7 *"then the LORD [Yahweh] God [Elohim] formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."* And lastly 3:8–9 *"And they heard the sound of the LORD [Yahweh] God [Elohim] walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"*

Our very existence is only because God created us in His image:

(In His Image: This defined man's unique relation to God. Man is a living being capable of embodying God's communicable attributes. In his rational life, he was like God in that he could reason and had intellect, will, and emotion. In the moral sense, he was like God because he was good and sinless.)

MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 17). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.)

to walk with Him in His presence in a state of holiness and righteousness as we exercised dominion over His creation in His Name, to glorify Him.

The Fall changed all that in a matter of minutes. The state of sin has put a wall between God and us. In our new natural state, we are no longer holy, righteous, glorifying God, and we started ruling creation

as if it was ours.

But the Good News is that our longsuffering, merciful, ever-loving God has not given up on His creation, even though He had every reason to.

John 3:16–18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

That Son, Christ Jesus went to the cross to die for the sins of the whole world, that’s yours and mine, each one of us. The choice is yours. Have you accepted that Christ Jesus is your Lord and Saviour yet or are you still waiting? It is never too late, unless you die first.

Just as He issued the call repeatedly to Israel to turn back in repentance and receive forgiveness and all the promised blessings, He has reached out to us, to restore our fullness of being in His image, to be part of His family as adopted sons and daughters and receive the promised blessings as well.

Romans 8:28–30” And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

And Colossians 3:8–10 “But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

If you have accepted that Jesus died for your sins, that He is truly Lord of your life, then you have been declared righteous in God’s eyes and holy, that is, set aside for the purpose of God. But we have to live into that righteousness and holiness. Just saying we believe in Jesus but continuing a life of sin in the eyes of the world is living a lie.

We can not do it on our own. Our tendency to go along with the ways of the world is too strong. That same gracious God who paid the penalty for our sin so we could again be in communion with Him seals us with the Holy Spirit at the moment of our decision for Christ. That same Spirit indwells us to build us up, teach us, guide us in the ways of the Lord to lives of holiness and righteousness.

The Holy Spirit will also guide and equip us in our mission to reach others to bring into the Kingdom of God.

Romans 10:12–15 (CJB) “That means that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—The Lord is the same for everyone, rich toward everyone who calls on him, since everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered. But how can they call on someone if they haven’t trusted in him? And how can they trust in someone if they haven’t heard about him? And how can they hear about someone if no one is proclaiming him? ¹⁵ And how can people proclaim him unless God sends them? —as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those announcing good news about good things!”

I believe that I sit here a disciple of Christ Jesus, because in response to the prayers of Barbara and her prayer groups, the Holy Spirit broke my heart of stone and opened my eyes to the word and the witness of her and her church family.

Especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, do you have family members, friends or neighbors that still have turned their lives from God? Lift them in prayer and witness in word and deed, knowing the Spirit will equip you to do this work that glorifies God.

If you personally, have still delayed accepting Jesus is your Lord and Saviour, then pray now:

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:9–10

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”





Praying with Pentecostal Fervor

By Jonathan Camire



I am sharing 'Praying with Pentecostal Fervor - St. Timothy's ABC.pdf' with you for the Trinity Banner. This was written by Jonathan Camire, a recent graduate from Ryle Seminary who feels called of God to work with us in Quebec. - Dan Endresen

Anglicans have a tradition of praying written prayers called collects. Much like written praise and worship songs, these collects have a theme and structure that serve not only to unify the parish in one voice and one heart but also to inspire how we pray the rest of the week. To many contemporary Christians, written prayers are the furthest thing from “Pentecostal fervor.” However, looking at one of the two collects for Pentecost Sunday (Whitsunday), we will see how we can indeed pray with Pentecostal fervor today.

*Almighty God, on this day, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
you revealed the way of eternal life to every race and nation:
Pour out this gift anew, that by the preaching of the Gospel
your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

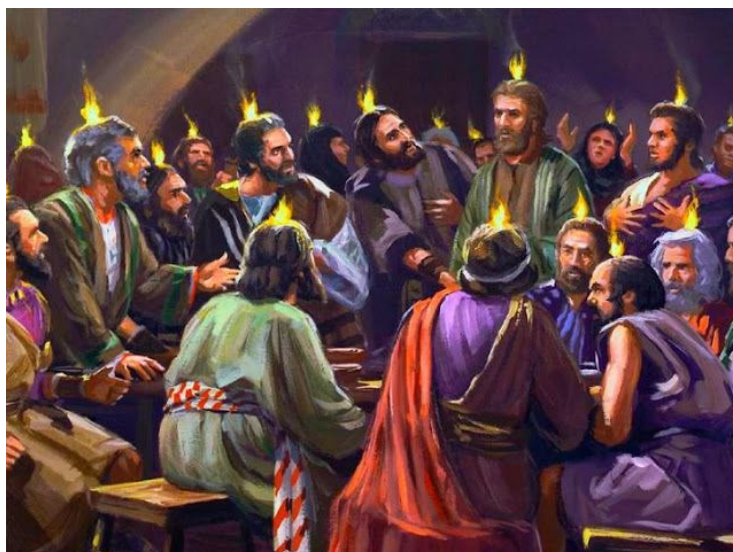
Firstly, through this prayer, we learn to address and acknowledge the Almighty God. If I’m honest with you, my initial instinct is usually to pray according to my felt needs. “God, please provide me with a ____ job... help me be a good husband... open this door... I want to know why _____, etc.” Addressing and acknowledging the Almighty God, however, has me pause and reflect on the fact that I am in conversation with the true and living God. Conversations that are one-sided are oftentimes unpleasant. Rather than talk and talk and talk to God as though He were an idol who doesn’t already know and care about my needs, I should reflect on Him as the source of grace and power—as the Almighty. While in this season of Pentecost, we ought to remember that we are praying to a God who gives grace upon grace. He pours out His grace in the Holy Spirit. He reveals the way to eternal life. He redeems from every race and nation. Before I even think of asking Him for anything, the Triune God has been giving grace upon grace to His Church. As such, my heart, my mind, and my desires find an anchor in the Almighty

God whose delight is to give grace and power in the context of a reverent relationship.

Secondly, we learn from this prayer to ask God to “pour out this gift [of the Holy Spirit] anew.” God’s gift of the Holy Spirit for spiritual awakening is precisely what we need in our present pandemic. Bishop Charlie Masters reminded us last Sunday that Pentecost is the “birthday of the Church”—when God poured out His Holy Spirit upon ordinary people like you and me to draw us to Himself. The time for the Church to be born was unlikely: the leader (Jesus) was no longer with His people, Rome occupied Jerusalem, Christians were ridiculed and persecuted by the state, and the disciples were afraid and shut in. Yet in all of these discouraging circumstances, God poured out His Holy Spirit to save many. As we recognize our weakness and sometimes desperation in this pandemic, we ought to call upon our God, who birthed the Church at Pentecost, to protect and grow His Church in our time. While many people see Quebec as a spiritually starved and hostile place, the Almighty God can give power of Pentecostal proportions through His faithful servants so that even the Quebecois people may know their Maker—not as wrathful Judge, but as gracious Saviour and Redeemer.

Lastly, we learn through this prayer to set our sights on the Triune God, in whom we find confidence and rest. Doing ministry in our time and place may seem daunting. Our weakness and social distancing may seem to make us inefficient and futile in our endeavours. But the fact of the matter is that the Lord reigns. Thus, we pray “through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with” God the Father, “in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.” We can be confident that the Lord who reigns will have His way when we ask according to His will. We can rest in the fact that He gives grace and power in and through our weakness.

As we pray the Collect for Pentecost Sunday and meditate on the goodness of the Almighty God who has poured out His love and grace, we can be moved to fervently pray for the gift of His Holy Spirit to operate in and through us for such a time as this.





The Temptation of Jesus

By Harn Yawnghwe

We know that after Jesus was baptised, He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights and afterward He was hungry. Satan began his temptation by appealing to Jesus's pride – *"If you are the Son of God"*, and His desire to satisfy His physical hunger – *"command these stones to become loaves of bread."*

James tells us that "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire". Jesus' temptation was not dissimilar to the temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They wanted to be like God and *"saw that the tree was good for food"*. Basically, Satan was telling Jesus – You are the Son of God. Be like Him. Use your power as God to turn these stones into bread and satisfy your hunger. Why suffer? It is no big deal. There is nothing wrong with eating when you are hungry.

But Jesus knew that He had been sent to fast in the desert and to be tempted for a reason. Proving who He was and satisfying His hunger was not the purpose. His purpose could only be accomplished if He obeyed God the Father in every way.

So He answered, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

But the devil did not give up. Since Jesus had quoted scripture, he took Jesus to the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and quoted scripture to Him, *"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"*

In other words, the devil was saying – if you are so keen on living according to Scripture, why do you not do as it says and prove that you are really God's son? Here Satan is misusing Psalm 91 to get Jesus to obey him instead of God. As James said, *"You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder"*. Do you pride yourself that you know Scripture? So does Satan. Adam and Eve knew God's word too – what He had instructed them. But they did not remember it very well and Satan was able to twist God's word to get them to do some-

thing against God's will. We need to be very careful how we use or allow God's word to be misused. Otherwise, instead of doing God's will, we may be doing Satan's will.

But Jesus knew His Scripture well and said to Satan, *"Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"*

Matthew 4:1-3

James 1:14

Genesis 3:4-6

James 2:19

Did the devil give up? No. He tried one more time.

The devil took Jesus to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and Satan said to him, *"All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."*

This was no empty boast nor was it a trick. The First Letter of John tells us that the whole world is in the power of the evil one. Jesus also refers to Satan as the ruler of this world. This means that Satan knew Jesus had come to redeem the world, and he was offering Jesus the world. Jesus would not have to suffer, He would not have to die. He can accomplish His goal and redeem the world by just falling down and worshipping Satan. Most pragmatists today would have accepted the offer. The end justifies the means.

But Jesus said to him, *"Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"*

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. I wonder how well we would do if we were tempted like that by Satan. That is why Jesus taught us to pray – *Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.*

But knowing our weakness, God has given us His Spirit to guide us, and Scripture tells us that God is faithful, and He will not let us be tempted beyond our strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that we may be able to endure it.

Praise the Lord for He is good.

The Five Solas

When Martin Luther started the Reformation, he proclaimed three Solas: *Sola scriptura*, *sola fide*, and *sola gratia* (in Latin). Later, *solus Christus*, and *solus Deo Gloria* were added. What do they mean? In brief, they can be explained simply as follows:

***Sola scriptura* – The Bible alone is the highest authority**
for our theology, our faith, and our practice.

Scripture = Doctrines

NOT

~~Scripture + Tradition = Doctrines~~

***Sola fide* – We are saved through faith alone.**

We are not saved by or declared righteous by our good works.

Faith = Salvation

NOT

~~Faith + Works = Salvation~~

***Sola gratia* – We are saved by the grace of God alone.**

We are not saved by our merits.

Grace = Salvation

NOT

~~Grace + Merit = Salvation~~

***Solus Christus* – Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.**

He is the only mediator between God and man.

Christ = Reconciliation

NOT

~~Christ + Saints/Priest = Reconciliation~~

***Soli Deo gloria* – Glory belongs to God alone.**

We are saved for God's glory.

Glory = God

NOT

~~Glory = God + Saints/Priest~~

By Harn Yawngwe

An Inspiration

By Deacon Alan Arnold

FOR THOSE AMONGST US THAT ARE SUFFERING, BE IT EMOTIONAL, MENTAL OR PHYSICAL, CONSIDER THIS POEM BY Martha Snell Nicholson

Martha Snell Nicholson was a godly Christian woman, who knew what it meant to praise her Lord in the midst of physical and emotional suffering. For more than thirty-five years she endured almost constant pain, increasing weakness and helplessness from four incurable diseases that held her confined to her bed. She also lost her husband, upon who she depended, in a fatal car accident. In spite of her pain and suffering, Mrs. Nicholson did not give in to self-pity or dwell on her suffering, instead, she focused on her Savior.

This is one of the many poems that she wrote of her journey with her Lord Jesus as he carried her through this life until He took her home.

THE THORN

I stood a mendicant of God before His royal throne
And begged him for one priceless gift, which I could call my own.
I took the gift from out His hand, but as I would depart
I cried, "But Lord this is a thorn and it has pierced my heart.
This is a strange, a hurtful gift, which Thou hast given me."
He said, "My child, I give good gifts and gave My best to thee."
I took it home and though at first the cruel thorn hurt sore,
As long years passed I learned at last to love it more and more.
I learned He never gives a thorn without this added grace,
He takes the thorn to pin aside the veil which hides His face.

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (ESV)

⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.





WITH A GRATEFUL AND THANKFUL HEART



By Joy Scott

The past few months have been like the other side of midnight. Going to work in a Long Term Care facility in the midst of the covid 19 pandemic is something no one in their imagination could fathom. Each challenging day came with fear, anxiety, frustration, anger and tears.

The precautions were many that had to be taken to protect ourselves, our colleagues, everyone around us and especially the most vulnerable in our society. There was a silent deadly killer in our midst and it showed no mercy. "God, where are you"? I cried. There were times when I couldn't tell what day it was. It was just working, going home, cleaning, and sleeping if I take a pain killer for my knee. Thanks be to God, there was the other side of Isaiah 43 verses 2 and 3a. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fires, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior." I was surrounded by an host of Prayer Warriors, who lifted me up daily. I could feel the energy encouraging and strengthening me, keeping me sane. There were guardians who called just as I was getting ready for work and wondering if I had anything left to give. They would just listen as I cried or grieved or talked, then prayed with me before I left for work. One prayer warrior said to me I want you to remember psalm 23 verse 4, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear for thou art with me," and believe me it felt like that; walking down those empty silent hallways where there was always noise certainly seemed like that.

There were guardians who had both spiritual and physical tasks. There were the containers of rich nourishing soups and sandwiches to take to work, homemade masks and head coverings that protected me before I got ppe (personal protective equipment) Bible verses, and the blessing of anointing

oils and uplifting stories of God's faithfulness and presence in every situation, and so with a grateful heart I thank God for you. May God shower you with his blessings ten thousand different ways.

In Christ.

Joy Scott

ps Our Father kept me safe.

I tested negative.

* * * * *

THREE STORIES

It hadn't rained for quite some time in a country. The natives decided to get together to pray seeking Gods favor on their country. On the designated day of prayer, they all gathered together in a park, but surprisingly only one small boy came with an umbrella.

THAT'S FAITH.

When you toss a baby in the air, that child laughs, because that baby knows he\she is safe as its parent will catch him\her.

THAT'S TRUST.

Every night we go to bed, we have no assurance to wake up alive the next morning, but we still set the alarm for tomorrow.

THAT'S HOPE

JESUS IS OUR HOPE

HAPPY PENTECOST EVERYONE.

MAY THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FALL ON US.

Submitted by Joy Scott



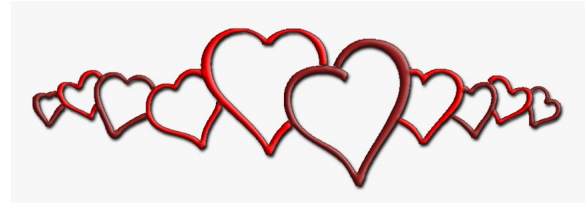
God's Ways

By Aleah Endresen

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV.

Near the end of the summer last year, I started having these awful stomach aches that happened here and there, but on Sunday, May 31st 2020, I got a really bad one. My stomach was hurting, so I went to go use the bathroom. It was hurting a bit but worse than some of my other ones. When it calmed down, I went downstairs to go watch some TV. I'd probably only watched about ten minutes of the show when my stomach was hurting a lot more than ever before. I went to the restroom again and probably stayed there for hours praying. Then I called my mom to pray with me. My mom suggested that I take a hot bath while she and my family were going to pray in the living room. The hot bath was working for a while, but then my stomach started to hurt again really badly. I got out of the bathtub and called my mom to come again and read me the Bible. She was reading verses about healing. (Psalm 30:2, 103:2, Isaiah 58:8). When my mom was done reading, I told her that I know God loves me, but I wish that He could heal me sooner, since that I know that if my mom could heal me, she would make her child feel better. My mom said that when she had her tooth ache, God did not heal her right away, but He helped her get through it. After some more praying, I finally went to the couch to rest. But then my stomach started hurting again. So I went to use the restroom once more. When I was finished, I felt a lot better. I thanked God for healing me. When my belly feels better, all of a sudden I talk and think a lot (my mom knows that very well). I was thinking about why God let my stomach hurt. I was looking out the window and thought, "this would be a good Banner article". We never know God's reasons, but whatever it is we know it's what's best for us. I would rather have faith in the One who created the world than in me, who just paints rocks to make them look like

yummy cakes. I might have other stomach aches later on, but what's important is that God hears and heals, and I can trust Him even if I don't understand why He doesn't take the pain away, but maybe He is teaching me patience.



Our Creator

By Do Fox

In the deep, peerless blue
Of the springtime sky,
I see the depths of Your Love
As my life flows on by.

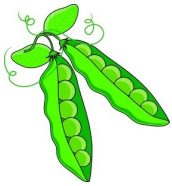
In the green of the trees
Your soft peaceful call,
Can be felt as warm breath,
Whispered gently to all.

Like a soft, soaring feather,
Brushing my face,
Your Love arches over
The whole human race.





A PRAYER GARDEN OF HAPPINESS



First plant 4 rows of peas:
Prayers
Promptness
Politeness
Purity



Next plant 4 rows of lettuce:
Let us be faithful to duty
Let us be unselfish
Let us be truthful



Next plant 3 rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Squash indifference



No garden is complete without turnips:
Turn up for Church
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with new ideas
Turn up with determination for something good and worthwhile

Amen

Submitted by Charlotte Paton

Here is a little filler for the Banner. It was published in "Best Recipes This Side of Heaven" published by Anglican Church Women" (ACW) across Canada. This was submitted under "Ecclesiastical Favorites" by Rev. Leslie Daley of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Hastings, Minn.

Charlotte

P.S. I never knew that Minnesota was part of Canada!



Recipe



Chocolate chip cookies a la Holy Spirit

By Do Fox

Several years ago, our son David was bringing some young scouts up to our country place. I wanted to make a treat for them but had not yet brought up my recipe box from the city. So, I can't recall if I prayed for an idea or not, but the following recipe came to mind. I decided to experiment, and have been making these cookies for years now, often baking them with my grandchildren. This is the recipe that came to mind, and to which I give God the credit.

1 egg
1/3 cup oil
1/3 cup brown sugar
2 tsp of vanilla flavouring
¼ cup rolled oats
1 cup of whole wheat flour
1 tsp of baking powder
¾ cup chocolate chips
¼ cup milk

Mix well, and shape as cookies on a baking sheet.
It makes about 20 – 22 cookies
Bake at 350F, for 15 minutes or until done.

A recent variation that Barrie and I like a lot, is to replace the chocolate chips with cut up dates, and add 1 tsp of cinnamon.

Bon appetit





Humour



Getting Older

Just before the funeral service, the undertaker came up to the elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied. "Two years older than me." "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

* * * * *

I felt like my body had gotten totally out of shape, so, I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

* * * * *

Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

* * * * *

Actual writings from hospital charts

1. The patient refused autopsy.
2. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
3. Patient recovering from forehead cut. Patient became very angry when given an enema by mistake.
4. She is numb from her toes down.
5. While in ER, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.
6. The skin was moist and dry.
7. Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
8. She stated she had been constipated until she got a divorce.
9. Skin: somewhat pale but present.

Father O'Malley rose from his bed.



It was a fine spring day in his new St. John's parish.

He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside.

He then noticed there was a jack-ass lying dead in the middle of the front lawn.

He promptly called the local police station.



The conversation went like this.

"Good morning. This is Sargent Jones. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Patrick's. There is a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o'yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Sargent Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment

Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, tis certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."

* * * * *

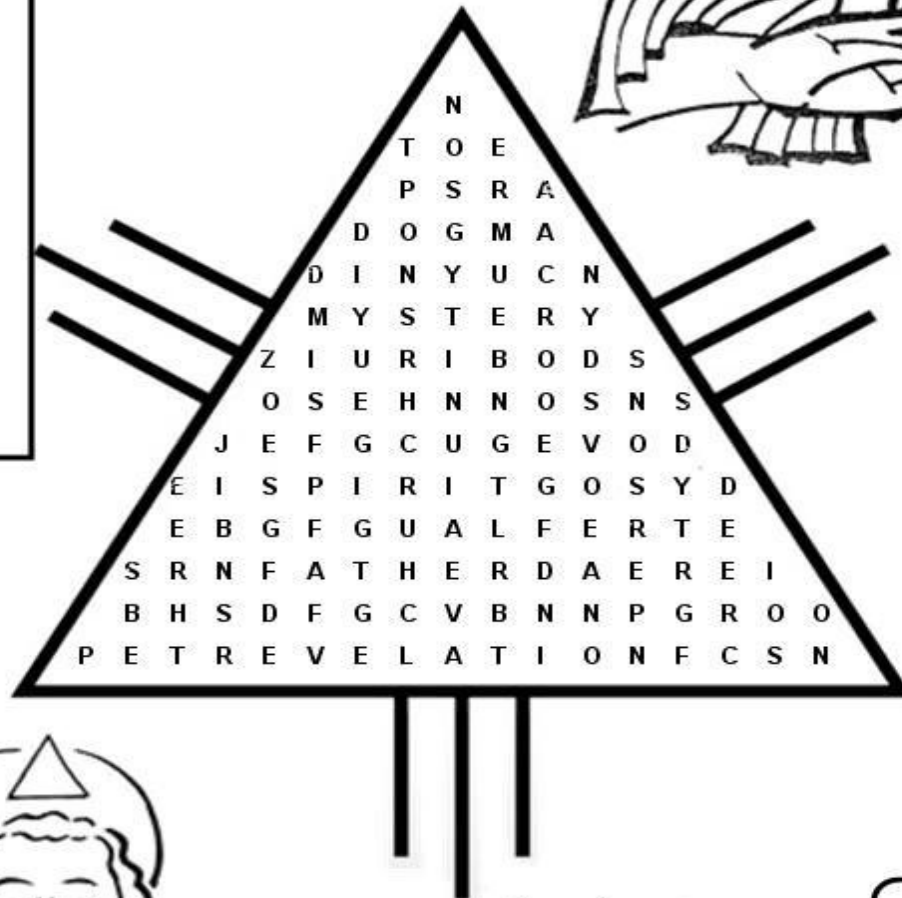
The senility prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the few I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Submitted by Bob Sumner

The Blessed Trinity



Persons
Dogma
Mystery
Three
Unity
Father
Son
Spirit(Holy)
Church
Revelation
Creed
Jesus
Dove
God



Find the
hidden
words

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