



The Holy Trinity

May 30, 2021

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Trinity Sunday”

Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen, *Mezzo-Soprano*

Lord, who hast formed me out of mud,
and hast redeemed me through thy blood,
And sanctified me to do good:
Purge all my sins done heretofore,
for I confess a heavy score,
and I will strive to sin no more.

Enrich my heart, mouth, hands in me,
with faith, with hope, with charity,
that I may run, rise, rest with thee.

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1633

Music: Carl Smith

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: **help us.**

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

P: Beloved people of God:
 in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
 you are fed and nourished.
 By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
 there is always more than enough.
 Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
 you are shown God's mercy:
 you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn~ "Holy, Holy, Holy"

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

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

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise ~ “Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”

1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
 2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name

ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
 “Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
 and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Prayer of the Day

- P: 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.
- C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

- A: In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed, and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Word of God, word of life.

- C: **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain (Cantor, then ALL)

David Haas

Ostinato Refrain



The Lord will bless all peo - ple, all
 peo - ple with peace, with peace. The
 Lord will bless all peo - ple with peace.

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Give to God your glory, you children of God;
 give glory and power! Adore the Lord our God, who is holy. **Refrain.**

God's voice is heard on the waters, the depth of the vast sea waters;
 the voice of the Lord full of power, a voice filled with splendor. **Refrain.**

God's glory thunders! In God's house all will cry: "Glory!"
 God has reigned o'er the flood and will reign forever! **Refrain.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What

is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ “Come Join the Dance of Trinity ”



- 1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
- 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
- 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
- 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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Creed

Excerpted from Athanasian Creed (traditional to Trinity Sunday) and the Apostles Creed

**We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity,
neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.
For the Father is one person, the Son is another,
and the Spirit is still another.
But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
is one, equal in glory, co-eternal in majesty.
What the Father is, the Son is,
and so is the Holy Spirit.
Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God:
And yet there are not three gods, but one God.**

**And in this Trinity, no one is before or after,
greater or less than the other;
but all three persons are in themselves, co-eternal and coequal;
and so we must worship the Trinity in unity
and the one God in three persons.
For this is the true faith that we believe and confess:
That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and man.
He is God, begotten before all worlds
from the being of the Father,
and he is man, born in the world
from the being of his mother—
existing fully as God, and fully as man
with a rational soul and a human body;
equal to the Father in divinity,
subordinate to the Father in humanity.**

**He suffered death for our salvation.
He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. We pray especially for the Holy Land, India and Tigray. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. As a community we pray for the healing of George, Robert, Tim, Eleanor, Barry, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for this worshiping community, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "When Long Before Time"

Quartet
Christine Hansen, Flute

When long before time when the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream;

The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

Though down through the ages the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God is with us in the world now as then.

The light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice,
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Son Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text and music: Peter W. A. Davidson
Setting by Richard Erickson

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

- 1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).*
- 2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*
- 3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Voluntary~ “Mothering God”

David Cherwien

Offertory Song~ “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Offertory Prayer

- P: Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
- C: **Amen.**

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.**

Benediction

- P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~“Voices Raised to You”

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "Baptized and Set Free"

Aaron David Miller

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Pastor Rachel Manke

Director of Music

Lawrence Baker

Lector

Cheryl Posen

Quartet

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,
Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

Flute

Christine Hansen

Announcements

Return Readiness Survey- As the Covid safety team and leadership continue to hammer out our return to the building we have a survey to get a sense of people's levels of comfort, etc. PLEASE participate in this important survey.

Weekly Outdoor Services begin June 6! We will be worshipping outdoors weekly in the Praise Lot beginning on Sunday, June 6 at our "summer hour" of 9:30 a.m. Please bring a chair and continue to make use of space and masking for the benefit of our most vulnerable. These services will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday evenings.

Save the Date - Food & Fellowship, June 30th Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 30th as we will have a Food Truck & Fellowship event at the church. Join us in the dinner hours, 4-8 p.m.

Spirit Walkers We are going to try a regular alternating schedule. We will meet next on Wednesday June 2 at 10 a.m. at Wentz Run and then Sunday June 6 at 4 p.m. Check these weekly emails to see the schedule and locations.

Additional Music Links:

"Lord of the Dance"- <https://youtu.be/rRjbyETePes>

"Et in Spiritum Sanctum" – J. S. Bach- https://youtu.be/uwLLL_LMHyl

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" -https://youtu.be/e5vLtzm_4E

