

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Celebrating Trinity Sunday
Kilbride – 9:30 am; Carlisle – 11:00 am



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About This Trinity Sunday Service

This service combines the words of *A Gathering Worship Resource Service* with the United Church of Canada's most recent statement of faith called *A Song of Faith*. The *words in italics* are taken directly from *A Song of Faith* found at <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/faith-statements/song-faith-2006>.

Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Land

Welcome to this place and to this time together. We are pleased that you could join us today, as your presence helps to enrich the experience of worship.

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of (Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), (Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

The Spirit of Christ is with us.

The light in me recognizes the light in you.

The Light of Christ is in our midst.

Centring Music: VU 283 – God Is the One (repeat)

Words & Music: Colin Gibson 1978

Pianist Robert Aszmies provides an instrumental track for New Zealand hymnist Colin Gibson's 1978 hymn, whose tune is known as GODPOINT. Gibson is a retired university English professor, lay preacher, choral director, organist, and music editor. [God Is the One Whom We Seek Together #283 Voices United Church of Canada Colin Gibson](#)

God is the One whom we seek together,
God is the Life which is part of us all;
God is the Truth and the mark of mystery,
God is the Love and the Joy that makes us whole.

Reflection on the Trinity:

*God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.*

*Yet,
in love,
the one eternal God seeks relationship.*

*So God creates the universe
and with it the possibility of being and relating.
God tends the universe,*

*mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.
God enlivens the universe,
guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.*

***Grateful for God's loving action,
We cannot keep from singing.***

*With the Church through the ages,
we speak of God as one and triune:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

We also speak of God as

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer

God, Christ, and Spirit

Mother, Friend, and Comforter

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,

and in other ways that speak faithfully of

***the One on whom our hearts rely,
the fully shared life at the heart of the universe.***

We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

Hymn: VU 312 (vv. 1 – 3) – Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Words: The Iona Community 1985, alt.; Music: John Goss 1868

Sabrielle McCurdy sings this Iona Community hymn at Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver. The music was composed by English hymnist John Goss (1800-1880). As Hymnary.com relates, "As a boy Goss was a chorister at the Chapel Royal and later sang in the opera chorus of the Covent Garden Theater. He was a professor of music at the Royal Academy of Music (1827-1874) and organist of St. Paul Cathedral, London (1838-1872); in both positions he exerted significant influence on the reform of British cathedral music."

[Praise with Joy the World's Creator | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

- 1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

- 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:

friend and stranger, guest and host.

- 3 Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.

Opening Prayer:

Written by Richard Bott

Creator of all, Christ of our lives,
Spirit that gives life, thank you for trusting us with so much.
Your love moves us and makes everything new.
Alleluia! Bless this time. Bless all time.
Bless the world with your love.
We ask it, celebrating the Trinity:
Maker, Redeemer, Sustainer.
May it be so. Amen.

Reflection on the Trinity: God/Creator

*God is creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.
We sing thanksgiving.*

*Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
of living things, diverse and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
**we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.***

*Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator,
who is both in creation and beyond it.
All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related.
All creation is good.
**We sing of the Creator,
who made humans to live and move
and have their being in God.***

Hymn: MV 30 – It's a Song of Praise to the Maker
Words: Ruth Duck 1992; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1992

Cheryl Jackson and Crystal Schau from Transcona Memorial United in Winnipeg perform this 1992 collaboration by Ruth Duck and Ron Klusmeier. Duck unfortunately passed away from pneumonia at the end of 2024; she was a well-respected theologian and professor of worship, a poet and hymnist, and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. As her website states, she was named a Fellow of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada "in recognition of her pioneering work in inclusive language for worship and her preeminence as a hymn poet and teacher."

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

- 1 It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry.
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.
- 2 It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore, R
- 3 It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song, R
- 4 It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings, R

Reflection on the Need for Grace (Confession):

In and with God,

*we can direct our lives toward right relationship
with each other and with God.*

We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.

We can grow in wisdom and compassion.

We can recognize all people as kin.

We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,

but as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter.

Made in the image of God,

we yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God.

Yet we choose to turn away from God.

*We surrender ourselves to sin,
a disposition revealed in selfishness, cowardice, or apathy.
Becoming bound and complacent
in a web of false desires and wrong choices,
we bring harm to ourselves and others.
This brokenness in human life and community
is an outcome of sin.
Sin is not only personal
but accumulates
to become habitual and systemic forms
of injustice, violence, and hatred.*

We are all touched by this brokenness:

*the rise of selfish individualism
that erodes human solidarity;
the concentration of wealth and power
without regard for the needs of all;
the toxins of religious and ethnic bigotry;
the degradation of the blessedness of human bodies
and human passions through sexual exploitation;
the delusion of unchecked progress and limitless growth
that threatens our home, the earth;
the covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity
with empires and systems of domination.*

We sing lament and repentance.

Sung Response: TLUS 89 – Our Tears, Falling Down like Rain

Words & Music: Paul Vasile 2018

Church musician, consultant, and composer Paul Vasile wrote this lament for the final Hymn Festival of the 2018 Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. It is arranged and performed by Lonnie Delisle, a Vancouver composer, arranger, choral director, and musician.

[Our Tears, Falling Down Like Rain | by Paul M. Vasile, arranged by Lonnie Delisle](#)

Our tears, falling down like rain to the ground
will water seeds of change.
Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie, kyrie,
kyrie eleison.

Prayer of Confession:

God's love,
you can't define it.
God's love,
you can't pin it down,
God's love,

you can't explain it.

God's love,

you can't limit it.

God's love,

you can't confine it to a book or a faith or a person.

You find love in the Creator, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus the Christ,

but God's love is also found in us

and shared through us

as we follow the Way of Jesus.

In silence, let us open ourselves to God's love

and confess whatever keeps us

from experiencing and sharing that love.

(Silence for reflection)

Words of Assurance:

Yet evil does not—cannot—

undermine or overcome the love of God.

God forgives,

and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings

with honesty and humility.

God reconciles,

and calls us to repent the part we have played

in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.

God transforms,

and calls us to protect the vulnerable,

to pray for deliverance from evil,

to work with God for the healing of the world,

that all might have abundant life.

We sing of grace.

Sung Response: MV 90 – Don't Be Afraid

Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule 1995; Music: John L. Bell 1995

Director of Music Andrea Ellis from Park Royal United Church in Charlottetown, PEI, performs this Taizé-style hymn by members of the Iona Community.

"Don't be Afraid" MV 90 - Andrea Ellis

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,

my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger

and I have promised, promised to be always near.

Reflection/Hymn on the Trinity: Spirit

The fullness of life includes

moments of unexpected inspiration and courage lived out,

experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness,

*blessings of seeds and harvest,
 friendship and family, intellect and sexuality,
 the reconciliation of persons through justice
 and communities living in righteousness,
 and the articulation of meaning.*

***And so we sing of God the Spirit,
 who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,
 animating all energy and matter
 and moving in the human heart.***

*We sing of God the Spirit,
 faithful and untameable,
 who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.*

*The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy
 not only in what is familiar,
 but also in that which seems foreign.*

***We sing of the Spirit,
 who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
 and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
 transforming us and the world.***

Hymn: VU 380 (v. 1) – She Comes Sailing on the Wind

Words: Gordon Light 1985; Music: Gordon Light 1985, arr. Andrew Donaldson 1994

Composer and musician Gordon Light leads Khoros of St Michael's Anglican Cathedral (Kelowna, BC) in the singing of his 1985 piece.

[380 VU She comes sailing on the wind](#)

*She comes sailing on the wind,
 her wings flashing in the sun;
 on a journey just begun, she flies on.
 And in the passage of her flight,
 her song rings out through the night,
 full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

1 *Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
 like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
 And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
 like a mother breathing life into her child. R*

Scripture:

*We offer worship
 as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
 and a practice of opening ourselves*

*to God's still, small voice of comfort,
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.
Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.*
We sing with trust.

*Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word
passed on from generation to generation
to guide and inspire,
that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place
from the human experiences
and cultural assumptions of another era.*

God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

*The Spirit breathes revelatory power into scripture,
bestowing upon it a unique and normative place
in the life of the community.*

*The Spirit judges us critically when we abuse scripture
by interpreting it narrow-mindedly,
using it as a tool of oppression, exclusion, or hatred.*

*The wholeness of scripture testifies
to the oneness and faithfulness of God.*

*The multiplicity of scripture testifies to its depth:
two testaments, four gospels,
contrasting points of view held in tension—*

***all a faithful witness to the One and Triune God,
the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.***

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1:1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth,

1:2 the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

1:4 And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

1:5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

1:6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

1:7 So 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.

1:8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

1:9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

1:10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

1:11 Then 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.

1:12 The 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.

1:13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

1:14 And 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,

1:15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

1:16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

1:17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

1:18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

1:19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

1:20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."

1:21 So 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.

1:22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

1:23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

1:24 And 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.

1:25 God 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.

1:26 Then God said, "Let us make humans 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."

1:27 So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

1:28 God 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."

1:29 God 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.

1:30 And 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.

1:31 God 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.

2:2 On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

2:4a These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20, *Living in the community of the Trinity*

28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

28:17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted.

28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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

28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Reflection/Story: Three in One

Reflection on the Trinity: Jesus

*We find God made known in Jesus of Nazareth,
and so we sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied.*

We sing of Jesus,

a Jew,

born to a woman in poverty

in a time of social upheaval

and political oppression.

He knew human joy and sorrow.

So filled with the Holy Spirit was he

that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.

We sing praise to God incarnate.

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign—

a commonwealth not of domination

but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry.

He forgave sins and freed those held captive

by all manner of demonic powers.

*He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.
He preached and practised unconditional love—
love of God, love of neighbour,
love of friend, love of enemy—
and he commanded his followers to love one another
as he had loved them.*

Hymn: VU 593 – Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Words: Tom Colvin 1969; Music: Ghanaian folk song, adapt. Tom Colvin 1969

Ulung Tanoto, who posts under the name Hymns Made Fresh on YouTube, performs covers of hymns and praise songs, primarily on piano and guitar. In this YouTube short, he plays the tune CHEREPONI (named for a small town in northeast Ghana), the Ghanaian folk song that Tom Colvin used as a setting for his 1969 hymn.

[Fingerstyle arrangement of an African melody - Jesu Jesu Fill Us with Your Love #hymn #guitar #short](#)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve
The neighbours we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. R
- 2 Neighbours are rich and poor,
Varied in colour and race,
Neighbours are near and far away. R
- 3 These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love,
All are neighbours to us and you. R
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. R

[Carlisle] Mission & Service Story

Offering Prayer:

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
we bring our gifts to you, O God.
Help us to give with them
a ready mind, a willing spirit,
and a joyful heart. Amen.

Offertory: VU 312 (v. 4) – Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Words: *The Iona Community 1985, alt.*; Music: *John Goss 1868*

[Praise with Joy the World's Creator | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Prayers of the People:

Sing into prayer: VU 948 – O God, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier's Taizé hymn is sung in beautiful a cappella harmony by the Sunday 7pm Choir, which serves the parish of St Francis de Sales Church in Ajax, Ontario.

[O Lord, Hear My Prayer | Taizé | Choir with Lyrics | Jacques Berthier | Psalm 102 | Sunday 7pm Choir](#)

O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.

O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

Lord's Prayer (Sung): VU 960

Adapt. from a chant by R. Langdon

Musicians from Golden Ears United perform Robert Langdon's version of this prayer.

[The Lord's Prayer VU 960](#)

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 them that 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.

Commissioning and Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, *Paul's farewell*

13:11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13:13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Sung Sending Forth: VU 424 (v. 1) – May the God of Hope Go with Us

Words: v. 1 Alvin Schutmaat 1984, v. 2 Fred Kaan 1993; Music: Argentine folk melody

Members of the Trinity United Church Choir in Ingersoll give a virtual performance of this hymn based on an Argentinian folk melody. The author of verse 1, Alvin Schutmaat (1921-1988), was a Columbian teacher of theology and music at seminaries in Columbia and Costa Rica.

VU424 May the God of Hope

- 1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Online Postlude: Holy Holy Holy

This well-known hymn (VU 315) about the Holy Trinity appears on *Silo Sessions* by Sounds Like Reign. This 2020 album is an a cappella collection of the artists' favourite hymns and spiritual songs, all recorded live inside an abandoned silo that offers beautiful resonance.

Holy Holy Holy (Silo Sessions) // Sounds Like Reign