**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Prayer, May 30, 2021**

**The Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity**

*“God is a flow, a radical relatedness, a perfect communion between three –*

*a circle dance of love.” (Fr. Richard Rohr)*

**CHECK-IN** and then Betty mutes everyone. **(Suzie and Betty)**

**WELCOME (Suzie De Quattro)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Betty and I had the pleasure of preparing for this Sunday.
* Thanks to Reggie Ott for our music.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today: Sister Jo’Ann De Quattro, Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, Jim De Quattro, Judy Sholes, Ann Jelen, Marilyn Voigt, Bob Gallagher, and Richard McGinnis.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Betty)**

Let your breath bring you into quiet so you can be attentive to each other and to the Spirit. Notice your breath as it goes in and out…. Let it slow and deepen… and slowly fill you with the peace of Christ. We begin with 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together… and one to know the Spirit who never leaves us.

(Pause)

**OPENING SONG INTRO (Suzie)**

Today we enter our celebration of Trinity Sunday singing a hymn that many of us grew up with. For Suzie and me, growing up Lutheran and Catholic, the song is in our roots. Let us sing these words noticing how they shaped our early awareness of God. Perhaps you’ll also notice how, in later years, you have opened in new ways to the mystery of God. Seeking that mystery is what gave birth to these words.

**OPENING – HOLY HOLY HOLY** (text is by Bishop Reginald Heber (1826) and the tune is “Nicea”, by John Dykes)  **(Betty – play Audrey Assad )**

Audrey Assad: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHrNNM23p8> (Stop at 1:52)

Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee!

Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons,  
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy  
There is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

**GREETING (Suzie)**

Beloved Community, rejoice!The Spirit of Christ is alive in us and fills us with the wonder of God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All:** Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP / GATHERING PRAYER (Suzie)**

Last week on Pentecost we remembered that our traditional attempts to speak of God are rooted in our profound awareness of God as both “other” – and yet at the same time close to us. We carry within us the Pentecost gift of God’s Spirit, “abundant, generous, and wasteful beyond our small fears and imaginations.” And today the Spirit welcomes us deeper into the mystery of God as we explore the Trinity. And so let us pray.

O gracious mystery that we name God, keep us afire with Pentecost zeal!

May our “narrowness and fear give way to an inclusivity that enables us

to speak of you [in many languages].”

If we do this, our “discipleship and generativity” will flourish

for the good for all peoples and all creation.

Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Betty)**

Today Suzie and I are drawing from scripture and from the writings of Jan Richardson, JoAnn Melina Lopez, and Fathers Richard Rohr and Ron Rolheiser.

We call this Sunday the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity. Most of us have been taught that the essence of the Trinity is about counting -- How do we understand one God as three persons. Suzie learned an analogy of water - one substance with three aspects – ice, liquid, and steam. That might work, but ultimately it was unsatisfying for us. For Suzie and me, “Trinity” is a way to recognize our own experience of the gracious mystery that we name God. And, once we look at it that way, Trinity becomes a revolution in how we want to be in the world. Trinity isn’t about counting. It’s about relationships.

Our own relationships can be an entry point. As I read a quote from Richard Rohr, think of your family and close friends. “For God to be good, God can be one. For God to be loving, God has to be two, because love is always a relationship. But for God to share excellent joy and delight, God has to be three.” (Pause.)

This morning, let’s approach the Trinity not so much as something to be grasped intellectually, but as something to experience – a flow of living relationships, a family of mutual delight.  And Paull will tell us that we are adopted sons and daughters in this family!

Then in Matthew’s Gospel we will hear the familiar names for the Trinity in Jesus’ command to his followers.  The final words of Matthew’s Gospel are the assurance of Jesus’ continuing love: “I am with you always, even to the end of time.”

This Trinity Sunday, let us open our hearts to the love that is the Trinity’s ultimate gift – and challenge – to us.

*(Slight pause)*

Now {*Sr. Jo’Ann De Quattro or Sr. Jennie Lechtenberg*) will read from the 8th chapter of Romans. Then Jim De Quattro will offer questions and silence for reflection. Feel free to stay with whatever question calls you.

**READING 1** [Rom 8:14-17](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/romans/8?14) **(Sr. Jo’Ann De Quattro or Sr. Jennie Lechtenberg)**

Brothers and sisters:  
All who are led by the Spirit are daughters and sons of God.  
For what you received was not a spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear.  
You received a Spirit of adoption,  
enabling us to cry out, “Abba, Father!”  
The Spirit of God joins with our spirit to bear witness

that we are children of God.  
And if we are children, then we are heirs,  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,  
sharing Christ’s suffering

so as to share in glory.

For the whole creation is waiting with eagerness for the children of God to be revealed.

**QUESTIONS 1 (Jim De Quattro)**

Let it sink in that you are an adopted child and heir in the family of Abba, Christ, and Spirit. What family inheritance do you treasure most?

How is creation eager for you to reveal yourself as a child of God?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** **(Betty:** Share slide 1, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty: Now (*Sr. Jo’Ann De Quattro or Sr. Jennie Lechtenberg*) will read the last verses of the gospel of Matthew.

**READING 2** [Mt 28:16-20](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew28?16)  **(Sr. Jo’Ann De Quattro or Sr. Jennie Lechtenberg)**

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples set out for Galilee,  
to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.  
When they saw him, they fell down before him, though some hesitated.

Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,  
Baptize them in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

And teach them all the commands that I gave you.   
And behold, I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.”

**QUESTIONS 2 (Jim De Quattro)**

How does it matter in your life that you were baptized in the names we give to the Trinity?

When are you most sure that Jesus is with us always, until the end of time? When do you doubt it?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  **(Betty:** Share slide 2, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty: Now Suzie De Quattro will share a refection drawn from Jan Richardson, JoAnn Melina Lopez, and Fathers Richard Rohr and Ron Rolheiser.

**READING 3 (Suzie)**

Today we’ll use our own experience to explore the mystery of God in three persons. Then the challenge of the Trinity stops being intellectual and instead becomes how we open ourselves to the divine love that is the nature of the Trinity.

See if this quote from Richard Rohr feels true for you:

The people I have loved with great abandon and freedom were not just the people who loved me, but people who loved what I loved. People who cared about community, the Gospel, the poor, justice, honesty—this is where the flow was easy, natural, and life-giving. Two or three people excited about the same thing are the beginning of almost everything new, creative, and risky in our world.

In experiences like that, we catch the flavor of our Triune God.

What ideas of God would we have to give up in order to believe in the Trinitarian mystery? Many of us were taught that God is Almighty Power yet Rohr calls God All-vulnerable, the Lamb of God found throughout the New Testament. Isn’t vulnerability a hallmark of love? Then perhaps God stands “in solidarity with all pain and suffering in the universe” and we are called “together, to be participants in our own healing.”

Why does it matter that we go beyond counting? Because “Humans become like the God we worship.” We desperately need a paradigm shift in human consciousness even as it unsettles us and makes us uncomfortable. Trinity Sunday invites us to make that shift from a God of Might to a God of Love – and act on it.

If Trinity means a revolution in how we glimpse the mystery of God, then it also impels us into a life of Trinitarian community.

[**Betty**: start slide 3 in next paragraph.]

A picture can help us imagine this. This icon, which is titled “Holy Trinity,” shows the Holy One in the form of Three graceful figures, without specific gender, sitting in complete relaxation around a small table. The gaze between the Three shows the respect and enjoyment among them as they all share from a comm on bowl.

Notice the Spirit’s hand points toward the open and fourth place at the table! Is the Holy Spirit inviting, offering, and clearing space? For what, and for whom? The original icon indicates that there was perhaps once a mirror glued to the front of the table.

It’s stunning when you think about it: There is room at this table for a fourth – the one in the mirror. (Pause.)

Being Church means being a sacrament of this lively, joyful, vulnerable, powerful communal Love. Being baptized means we are to be visible signs and channels of Trinity. This is how we bring about the kin-dom of God.

**QUESTIONS 3 (Jim De Quattro)**

**(Betty: Show slide 3 as Jim starts the first question.)**

Imagine pulling your chair up to that table. Spend a minute sitting with them.

How does it feel for you to hear God called “vulnerable”?

How do you stand fiercely against injustice and evil while keeping love central to your motives, plans, and actions?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  **(Betty:** Share slide 4, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty : Judy Sholes will now lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Judy Sholes)**

We invite you to briefly share what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on these readings. That helps us to glimpse the many ways God is among us. We welcome new voices, and we also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening,

So let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. [Long pause.]

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards.

Who would like to begin our sharing?

(Sharing)

Thank you.

Now Ann Jelen will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Ann Jelen)**

The Trinity shows us that we are part of a divine mystery that defies our comprehension. In this grace, we confidently we offer our prayers. Our response will be: Holy One, hear our prayer.

On this Memorial Day we remember those who died in wars and conflicts. May their lives be held dear, their sacrifice remembered. Banish violence from our midst and bring us all safely into your kin-dom of justice and peace. For this we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

For the courage to become contagious life-giving community, we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of women religious as they ask not simply what they are to **do** for your kin-dom, but how they are to **be** your love, we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

For the grace that lets us be vulnerable in relationship to those who are themselves vulnerable, we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

Now let’s remember the feelings and prayers that arose in us as we shared reflections, and also the prayers we carry with us. *[Pause.]*

Now, for what else shall we pray? Please remember to unmute and mute yourself.

(People speak.)

Thank you.

O God, we give you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We will do all that we can to put our prayers into action – while entrusting the outcome to you. Amen.

*(Pause.)*

**OFFERTORY (Marilyn Voigt)**

As Pentecost people we recognize the amazing gift of the Spirit within us. What does it mean to receive and be God’s presence? What is your next step, the step you can take this week? *[Pause.]*

Let us pray. Generous God, Creative Spirit, we commit to sharing our time, talents, and treasures so that we may be a light and a witness to the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Bob Gallagher)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in and among us. [Pause.]

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the cup,

gifts of the earth and work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it. [Pause.]

Let us invite God into ourselves so that we become God’s living presence in our world. [Pause.]

Holy One, you transform us as you nourish us here.

May we nourish others with your presence.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER (Richard McGinnis)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands to pray in harmony with Christians throughout the world:

***All (muted):*** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your 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 do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Betty)**

Let us extend our hands as we bless each other:

May you know  
the presence of the God  
who dwells within your days,  
the mystery of the Christ  
who drenches you in love,  
the blessing of the Spirit  
who bears you into life anew.

Now Reggie Ott will lead us in lifting up our hearts to the Lord.

**CLOSING – “Lift Up Your Hearts to the Lord” (Ps. 66) by Roc O’Connor (Reggie Ott)**

Refrain: Lift up your hearts to the Lord,

praise God's gracious mercy!

Sing out your joy to the Lord,

whose love is enduring.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!  
Praise the name above all names!  
Say to God, "How wondrous your works,  
how glorious your name!" Refrain  
  
Let the earth worship, singing your praise.  
Praise the glory of your name!  
Come and see the deeds of the Lord,  
bless God's holy name! Refrain  
  
Listen now, all you servants of God,  
As I tell of these great works.  
Blessed be the Lord of my life,  
whose love shall endure! Refrain

**RESOURCES**

Some words and themes come from Anne Regan and Bill Fanelli’s Pentecost Sunday communal prayer and the sharing during that service. We also drew on Joan and Stu Sklamm’s 2020 Trinity Sunday communal prayer.

Ron Rolheiser, OMI:

* “Finding God in Community” - <https://ronrolheiser.com/finding-god-in-community/#.YJysr10pA0M>

Richard Rohr, OFM -

* “The Trinitarian Revolution” <https://cac.org/trinitarian-revolution-2019-05-17/>
* “The Foundation of Community: <https://cac.org/the-foundation-of-community-2020-05-05/>
* More on Trinity:
  + <https://cac.org/trinity-part-1-weekly-summary-2019-05-11/>
  + <https://cac.org/trinity-part-2-weekly-summary-2019-05-18/>
  + Richard Rohr, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* (Whitaker House: 2016), 35-36, 171.

Jan Richardson - “Poured into Our Hearts” - <http://paintedprayerbook.com/2013/05/20/trinity-sunday-poured-into-our-hearts/>

JoAnn Melina Lopez, Homily for Trinity Sunday 2021 at Catholic Women Preach: <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05302021>

Image: Andrei Rublev, “Holy Trinity” (15th century)

Memorial Day prayer: Pax Christi Community – Eden Park <https://m.facebook.com/PaxChristiEP/photos/a.384542354891792/3216846554994677/?type=3&_rdr>

Final Blessing: Jan Richardson, “Blessing for Trinity Sunday” <http://paintedprayerbook.com/2012/05/29/trinity-sunday-drenched-in-the-mystery/>)