



Sunday, October 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Blessing of the Water

Adapted from The Anglican Church of Australia

Reader We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit. Through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

And now we give you thanks that you have called us to a new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Celebrant Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be

made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Liturgy of Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption from Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

The Gathering of the People

Celebrant In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, the love at our beginning and without end, in our midst and with us. God is with us, here we find new life.

Opening Song

The Holy Trinity

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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,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!

The first system of musical notation for 'The Holy Trinity' is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in the key of D major (two sharps). It features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 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,; 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide 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;
though the sin - ful hu-man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

The second system of musical notation continues the song. It features the same four vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 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;; though the sin - ful hu-man eye thy glo - ry may not see,; 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,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side 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.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt.
 Music: *Nicaea*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

11 12. 12 10

Celebrant Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

People **Jesus Christ is good news for the poor, release for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

The Psalter

First Nations Translation

***Psalms* 65**

O Great Spirit, sometimes the only
 honor I can bring you is my
 breathless silence. Strong
 Mountain (Zion) is where we will
 carry out our sacred promises.

**All humankind will come to you, for
 you hear and answer prayer.**

Our bad hearts and broken ways

overpower us, but you release us
from them all.

**Harmony and well-being rest on your
chosen ones, those you welcomed
to live with you in your gathering
place. We will find our full
meaning and purpose in the holy
place where you live, in the beauty
of your sacred lodge.**

You answer our prayers with
awesome and fearful deeds, O
Great Spirit, the One Who Sets Us
Free. You show us your right ways,
giving hope to people from all
directions, even those living across
the great waters.

**You set the mountains in their place,
for you are wrapped in a sash of
great power and strength.**

You calm the roaring of the great
waters, their crashing waves, and
the loud shouting of the nations.

People who walk in lands far away
stand in awe of your wonders.
From sunrise to sunset, you make
the sun dance across the circle of
the sky and shout for joy.

**You care for Mother Earth with gentle
rains, making her rich and
pregnant with life. Your streams
overflow with water. You provide
seeds of corn, beans, and squash,
making her ready to give birth.**

You send water to soak into the
planting mounds and soften the

ground. You bless the sprouts as
they grow green and strong.

**Creator, during the growing season,
you dance, and wherever your feet
touch the ground, Mother Earth
brings forth a great harvest of
good things.**

The grasslands in the wilderness drip
with dew. Even the little hills put
on their finest regalia and sing
songs of joy.

**The meadows clothe themselves with
flocks of sheep, and the valleys
wear a blanket fragrant with the
smell of sweetgrass. Together, their
voices echo back and forth with
songs of joy.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. I will confess my sins to the
Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Moment of Silence

Deacon God forgives and heals us.

People **We need your healing, merciful God:
give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us,
some we cannot face.
Forgive us;
set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you.**

Celebrant God forgives you.
Forgive others;

forgive yourself.

Moment of Silence

Celebrant Through Christ, God has put away your sin: approach your God in peace.

The Collect

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And within you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ Solomon's Temple

Introduction by Rev. Phillip Bass

The First Lesson

1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:1-13

Reader A reading from 1 Kings.

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend to David. Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until he put them under the soles of his feet. But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. So they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up.

King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon said,

“The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

John 2:19-21

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Praise and Glory to God.**

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

Deacon The good news of our Savior.

People **Praise be to Christ the Word.**

Lectionary Discussion

*What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?
During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.*

An Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Anthony, Gregory, Kerry, Maureen, Nikki, and Patty.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following

You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Celebrant God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

People **All you have made is good. Your love endures for ever.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Spirit of God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift your hearts to heaven

People **where Christ in glory reigns.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
the first born from the dead,
the pioneer of our salvation,
who is with us always,
one of us, yet from the heart of God.
For with your whole created universe,
we praise you for your unfailing gift of life.
We thank you that you make us human
and stay with us
even when we turn from you to sin.

People **God's love is shown to us:
while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.**

Celebrant In that love, dear God,
righteous and strong to save,
you came among us in Jesus Christ,
our crucified and living Lord.
You make all things new.
In Christ's suffering and cross
you reveal your glory
and reconcile all peoples to yourself,
their true and living God.

In your mercy you are now our God.
Through Christ you gather us,

new-born in your Spirit,
a people after your own heart.
We entrust ourselves to you,
for you alone do justice
to all people, living and departed.

People **Now is the acceptable time,
now is the day of salvation.**

Celebrant Therefore with saints and martyrs,
apostles and prophets,
with all the redeemed,
joyfully we praise you and say:

People **Holy, holy, holy:
God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky
and all that lives,
declare your presence and your glory.**

Celebrant All glory to you, Giver of life
sufficient and full for all creation.
Accept our praises,
living God, for Jesus Christ,
the one perfect offering for the world,
who in the night that he was betrayed,
took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you, and for many,
to forgive sin.

Do this as often as you drink it
to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation,
in the suffering and death
of Jesus our redeemer,
we meet you in your glory.
We lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon your name.
Here and now, with this bread and wine,
we celebrate your great acts of liberation,
ever present and living in Jesus Christ,
crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come.

People **Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Celebrant May Christ ascended in majesty
be our new and living way,
our access to you, Father,
and source of all new life.
In Christ we offer ourselves
to do your will.
Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit,
feed us with your life,
fire us with your love,
confront us with your justice,
and make us one in the body of Christ
with all who share your gifts of love.

People **Through Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Creator God. Amen.**

Moment of Silence

The Communion

Celebrant As Christ teaches us, we pray

People **Our Lord that is in heaven:
blessed be your name.**

**Your dominion come:
your will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today our next day's bread:
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And leave us not prey to temptation:
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Bread is Broken

Celebrant The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The Cup is Presented

Celebrant The cup of blessing
for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The Invitation

The Bread and Cup are Offered

Celebrant Bread and wine; the gifts of God
for the people of God.

People **May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

Time for Prayer and Reflection

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are, light a prayer candle, or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing

prayers and anointing during this time.

Taize & Contemplation

Ubi caritas



Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is dwelling there, God is dwelling there.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Most loving God, creator and redeemer,
we give you thanks
for this foretaste of your glory.

People **Through Christ, and with all your saints,
we offer ourselves
and our lives to your service.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,
to stand with you in your world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,
our friend and brother. Amen.**

Moment of Silence

The Blessing

Celebrant You are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

Deacon Bless, O Lord, your gifts to our use and us to your service; for Christ's sake. Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon Grace be with you.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Deacon Go in peace.

People **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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