

Greetings members and friends of First Congregational Church of Shelburne,

This Sunday, June 7, is both Trinity Sunday and Communion Sunday. Coming to the Lord's Table for communion is central to our monthly worship cycle. Please remember the Worship Resource and the YouTube video are available on the church web page, shelburnechurch.org.

In consultation with the Deacons we offer two ways you may celebrate communion.

Worship Resource and the YouTube video. This week's Worship Resource is the order of service that I will follow on a video that will be posted on the church's web site by Saturday evening. To participate you will need:

A copy of the Worship Resource.

Two elements for communion: a drink (any kind of juice or water (yes to wine)

Bread of any kind or a cracker.

Access to the YouTube video.

Once you start the video you will be able to participate in the service from home.

Worship Resource only. To participate you will need:

A copy of the Worship Resource.

Two elements for communion: a drink (any kind of juice or water (yes to wine)

Bread of any kind or a cracker.

You may follow the written service, saying the prayers and reading the scripture. When you come to Communion, you are empowered to read the invitation, the consecration, bless the bread and cup, partake of both, and then conclude with the Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Benediction.

While the Lord's Table has always been a strong community experience, *new occasions teach new duties*, as the old hymn goes. Remember in your celebration that you are connected to the body of Christ and you are individually members of it.

Please remember we include prayer requests every week.

Any requests may be sent to me at pastor01089@gmail.com.

God be with you as we unite in praise, in ministry and in worship even from a distance.

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Communion Sunday Worship

June 7, 2020

Good Morning to our members and friends at home,

This Sunday is both Trinity Sunday on the church calendar and communion Sunday. This resource is designed for the celebration of both. In preparation for this service, please have two elements ready. First, a drink in a cup or glass. This could be juice of any kind or water. (yes, wine is also acceptable) Second, a piece of bread of any kind. From sliced, to French, a hamburger roll to a Triscuit cracker, all may be used.

Our Sunday morning YouTube video will be posted on our webpage by Saturday evening that follows this order of worship and includes Communion. If you are unable to access the video,

you are welcome and encouraged to follow this resource on your own and celebrate Communion by reading the Communion prayers and serving yourself keeping in mind that even when alone, we are all a part of the body of Christ.

And now let us be in worship

A Call to Worship

Almighty God, creator of the universe, beyond all knowledge and all understanding,
Christ, our Savior, who walks with us,
Holy Spirit, who touches our hearts with gifts for ministry,
We praise you, we honor you, we glorify you, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit!

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

God of overflowing grace, you have called us into this week and so we come this morning in thanksgiving and praise. We pray for your Holy Spirit to be our guide, our comfort and our strength each morning that we rise. In this new week may we walk further with your Christ, seeking his ways for us. This we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying... *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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Our prayers this morning center on the trinity of God. The first prayer is from Francis of Assisi. The second from Eric Milner White. There is time for personal prayer and reflection. Let us clear our minds and focus our thoughts, let us come to God.

You are holy. You are holy, Lord, the only God and your deeds are wonderful.
You are strong, you are great. You are the most high, you are almighty.
You, holy Father, are King of heaven and earth. You are three and one, Lord God, all good.
You are good, all good, supreme good, Lord God, living and true.
You are love, you are wisdom. You are humility, you are endurance.
You are rest, you are peace. You are joy and gladness, you are justice and moderation.
You are all riches and you suffice for us. You are beauty, you are gentleness.
You are our protector, you are our guardian and defender.
You are courage, you are our haven and our hope.
You are our faith, our great consolation. You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord.
God almighty, merciful savior.

Jesus, Creator, recreate and renew me. Jesus Savior save me from sin and save me from self.
Jesus, High Priest, pity me, plead for me and purify me. Jesus, Prophet, waken and warn me.

Jesus, King, rule me. Jesus the Way, Jesus my friend, go with me always.
Jesus, the Truth, teach me and counsel me. Make me all true.
Jesus, true light, scatter my darkness. Jesus, true bread, strengthen my weakness.
Jesus, Good Shepherd, lead me and feed me. Jesus the Life, life in me always,
that I may adore thee, My Lord, and my God.

Gracious God, in this moment of prayer of meditation, as we come before you, may our prayers rise to you and lift those who are in need this day.....

In this time of uncertainty, unrest and seeking justice and peace, safety and security, we fervently offer our prayers for those who suffer, those who stand for those who cannot, and those who work for a better way of life for all your people.....

May we find your peace O God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, working beyond us, with us and in us. Amen.

The Trinity: *Seeing Beyond, In and With*

The concept of the Trinity, as worded in the Gospels, *Father, Son, Holy Spirit*, is not spelled out in the Christian scriptures in any specificity. We do see the big three together. Today's text from the gospel of Matthew is a case in point. "*Baptize,*" says Jesus, "*in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*" but there is no theological explanation that connects the three together in precise language. This has left the explaining to a couple of thousand years of authors, and writers, priests and ministers, scholars and theologians. What seems to be in most folk's minds is the specific formula and a collection of symbols. To get beyond that, often proves to be an exercise in confusion and circular conversation. The Trinity, even though that word does not show up in the Gospels, is one of the foundational pieces of the Christian church in describing the nature of God. Today's text is from the Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*"

Here ends the reading from
The Gospel According to Matthew

The question for this Trinity Sunday is: how do we see and how do we experience the Trinity in our lives today? One way to ponder this is from the perspective of God creator is God beyond me, Jesus of Nazareth is God with me, and the Holy Spirit is God in me. I would encourage you to reflect on this question and then prepare for to come to the table of Christ for communion.

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

Whether we gather in our meeting house, in the hall, on our front lawn, on the beach, upon a mountain top, or in living rooms, when we gather to break bread in remembrance of Jesus, when we gather to pass the cup of life and to acknowledge our new covenant in Christ, we have gathered around the Lord's Table. All are welcome here. Where you have been, where you are today, what you have done in this life, or left undone, if you are broken, or whole, joyful or tearful, wandering or confused, you are welcome here in the hopes of finding God's love, God's forgiveness, God's mercy, and God's healing in this bread and in this cup. This is the Lord's table, come from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, and gather here, not because you must, because you may.

The Prayer of Consecration

Fill us with your glory, O God, and send your Holy Spirit on these offerings that you have created. As this bread was scattered on the mountains, the hills and in the valleys, and was gathered to become a single body And as this fruit of the vine, sprung from the holy vine of David, and became a single mystery, so too gathers the church of Jesus Christ. Each time that we eat this bread and drink from this chalice we announce Christ's death and proclaim his resurrection. In Christ the light which shines for us all has come into this world, and he has become one with us that we may become one with you. Thanks be to you, O God, your Christ and the Holy Spirit, for this great gift and for bringing us to this, the table of your grace. Amen.

Blessing of the Bread

On the night that Jesus was to be betrayed, he sat at table with all of his disciples. During the course of the meal, he took bread off the table. When he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
(You break your bread and eat)

Blessing of the Cup

Again, on that same night, Jesus took a cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. (You may drink from your cup)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we praise you for you have again given us the blessed benefits of your sacrament. You have satisfied us with the food and drink of your grace and salvation in Jesus Christ. Having received these gifts, we offer ourselves as a holy and precious offering, that all of us who have just united with Jesus at his table may grow daily in faith, may rejoice in hope and may enrich others with your love. May praise, glory, honor, and thanksgiving descend upon your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the blessings of God,
The Peace of Christ and
The Comfort of the Holy Spirit,
Go with us now and forever more.
Amen.