

Be Unto Your Name

Gary Sadler / Lynn DeShazo

Please see print copy for words.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Credits

Cover Art: Cross within the Star of David within a triangle, symbolizing the Trinity. Italian, from the Middle Ages.

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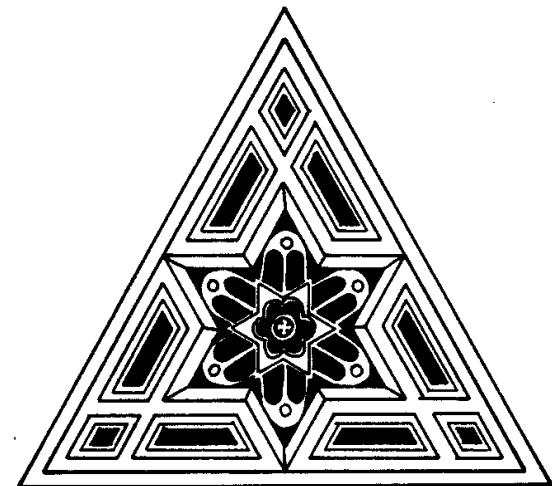
Trinity Sunday

Old Orchard Church

June 7, 2009 – 10:15 to 11:45 am

May the grace of the
Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

—2 Corinthians 13:14—



Celebrating The Blessed Mystery of God

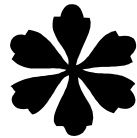
And the Baptism Into Jesus Christ of Karissa Grace Bartlett

O God, and Spirit, and Jesus,
The Three,
From the crown of my head,
O Trinity,
To the soles of my feet mine offering be;
Come I unto Thee, O Jesus, my King—
O Jesus, do thou be my sheltering.

I will lie down this night with God;
And God will lie down with me;
I will lie down this night with Christ,
And Christ will lie down with me;
I will lie down this night with the Spirit,
And the Spirit will lie down with me;
God and Christ and the Spirit, be lying down with me.

The peace of all peace be mine this night.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

—Celtic night prayer



Today's Scripture

Gospel Reading: John 17:13-26

Pearl String on the Trinity: 2 Corinthians 13:14;
Exodus 3:13-14; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:18-20; John 15:26

Mini Sermon Series on Christian Worship

"Exercising Faith to See the Drama: Glory and Grace" Part 2

Hebrews 12:12-29

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

High the Majesty, Great the Mystery

I mentioned in my sermon last Sunday the triumphant—and I'd say, pretty accurate—claim of the winner one year of an Oscar for Best Cinematography in film:

There is hardly anything anymore which we cannot make visual!

Movies *are* often visual extravaganzas! But one thing you cannot make visual is a spirit. You can try to represent a spirit-being to the eye with symbols or images taken from the material world, but the danger is that it can distort more than it reveals.

And God's concern that we not distort who he is by trying to make him "visual" is reflected in his law, in the Second Commandment that forbids his people to make any picture or image of him as a divine spirit for use in worship. The church, generally, has allowed pictures of Jesus to be used for teaching purposes, because God the Son took a human form and thereby made himself visual to us! Sure, no artist's picture of Jesus will capture *the details* of his facial features; but still, every picture of him represents him accurately insofar as he is pictured with *human features*: with a nose, a mouth, eyes and cheeks, and hair on his head. He really was—and remains—a human being. And it's important for us to picture him walking, talking, and eating in first century Palestine.

But how do you make visual the high Majesty of God, inscrutable and mysterious in his trinity? You don't. You bow low and worship by faith, without any image.

On this day, Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after the completion of Eastertide, all that the Lord has done for us and for our redemption is gathered up in our worship of him as the great Triune God because every last thing he's done for us he's done as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three persons yet ever one being, world without end.

What a need there is in these times for us to proclaim the Lord as God the Majestic, God the Mysterious! God has revealed much that can be made visual. But the Trinity is not one of them. All symbols fail, all analogies distort the remarkable reality of God as a trinity in unity and a unity in trinity. How refreshing we ought to find it not to be able to picture something—we who can dazzle the eye with computerized special effects. So great is our technological acumen, but so impoverished our capacity for reverence. God is not just the world's only Savior; he is also the Unmanageable One, the One who rides on the wings of the wind in his incomprehensible fullness as uncreated God, three yet one, with all life in himself.

Blessed be Christ, the God-Man who reconciles us to the high and great God of the universe, and leads us not only to love him, but also to bow low and worship him, and by our changed lives to make him visual in the world.

--Ron Lutjens