

## Words of Welcome

When I say the word “wisdom” what do you think of, or maybe, who do you think of? Wisdom is often something we seek in others and hope to have some in ourselves as well. In scripture we are told that wisdom was created before anything else. As we consider wisdom in our time together, let us begin with a call to worship.

## Call to Worship

Let us shape a space for The Three:  
the Spirit as breath of life  
the Bread as food of heaven  
the Love in relationship

Let us shape a space that tangles all three  
through our life and our worship  
held in relationship and met here

Let us shape a space for the many faces of God  
woven together and revealed in each of us

On this Trinity Sunday let us shape a space  
to be found together in worship

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the **New Kilpatrick Parish**  
Church website. <https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>

## Hymn

### *Those who wait on the Lord*

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1. Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall rise up on wings as eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint:  
help us Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.
2. Those who serve the suffering world shall renew their strength;  
they shall rise up on wings as eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint:  
help us Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.
3. Those who live the risen life shall renew their strength;  
they shall rise up on wings as eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint:  
help us Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.

4. Those who love the Mystery shall renew their strength;  
they shall rise up on wings as eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint:  
help us Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.
5. Those who die on the march shall renew their strength;  
they shall rise up on wings as eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint:  
help us Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.
6. Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall rise up on wings as eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint:  
help us Lord; help us, Lord, in your way.

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## **Prayers of Adoration and Confession**

Holy God, who is One in Three and Three in One, we praise you this day  
as the Source of all life, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

You created us and called us good, shepherding us with your steadfast love.

Jesus Christ, we praise you this day,

born into our midst to show us the way of goodness, mercy and grace.

Holy Spirit, we praise you this day

for the energy you bring us to greet each day as a gift

and serve in the world with gladness.

Holy God, Three in One and One in Three,

reveal to us this day what it means to live as your people

so that we may honour your holy name.

**God of mercy and majesty,**

**you are slow to anger and swift to forgive.**

**You have shown us the depth of your love,**

**yet we are reluctant to love others who differ from us.**

**You have shown us compassion and forgiveness,**

**yet we walk away from one another without concern.**

**You have offered us hope in Christ Jesus,**

**yet we lose that hope when life is challenging.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

**Create in us the endurance and character**

**which help us trust in the power of your forgiving love.**

**God of Word and wisdom,**

**reveal the mysteries of faith to us this day by the power of your Holy Spirit.**

**Through the Scriptures, show us how to witness to the name of Jesus Christ,  
your Living Word. Amen.**

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## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

God is ready to forgive us  
for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in mercy.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another,  
through the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## **Scripture Reading Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
<sup>2</sup>On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
<sup>3</sup>beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:  
<sup>4</sup>"To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.  
  
<sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
<sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
<sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
<sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—  
<sup>26</sup>when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

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The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Message Wisdom

One of the wisest people I ever knew was a woman in my home town. She was unassuming. I doubt many people took much notice of her, but she happened to be one of my mother's good friends and a member of the church I attended. She had those thick, bottom of a glass pop bottle style glasses, as her sight was very impaired. I always liked her, but for a number of years, after being away and moving back to my hometown, and my mom and dad at that point living in Kamloops, I found myself hauling my toddler and preschool children over to her home in order to sit in her wisdom. This was a lady who kept a little chest of dinky toys in the bottom of the closet. Just enough to entertain my kids. That was wisdom in itself. And though my children would not have been able to articulate why at the time, somehow, they were always content when we went to see her.

She was what seemed elderly at the time. Getting closer to that age now, I am feeling like she was less elderly than I perceived. And though some may wonder why this particular relationship, I know it was her wisdom that drew me to her. When I needed someone to guide me and see me, I would give her a call, pack up the kids and spend an afternoon with her. Even after I moved away and then would go back to Spirit River to visit family, I made time to see her.

You might have noticed that though she was blind I also knew she could see me. This was not about her sight, but rather her insight, her wisdom. I grew to more than like her, I loved her very much. Her wisdom was a guiding light for this young mom and we grew to have our own relationship of friendship. She was one of my first mentors.

I continue to seek mentors in my life. They are not perfect people, but they are caring and compassionate individuals who bring light and life, wisdom and encouragement. I have had various mentors throughout my career, whether teaching piano, to going through seminary, into ministry and even now as I reach out to one for guidance as a leader and others for wisdom around preaching and teaching.

The Sessions and leadership teams that I work with in this presbytery are all people who bring wisdom and experience to our work and to my life. I am grateful for each one. To be honest, when we look for it, moments in our lives can bring wisdom from different people to various situations. Importantly creation itself has wisdom to offer us. Wisdom is something to be sought, appreciated, and integrated into our lives.

The collection of writings and thoughts in the Book of Proverbs is considered wisdom literature. It is a book on the practicalities of life and speaks in generalities. It speaks to how things usually work out; it does not speak to the exceptions to the rules of which there always are. Proverbs is a book of wisdom that can be studied as a guide to living. It gives warning of what happens to those who follow the folly of seduction and greed, laziness, and even a loose tongue. It also shares the wisdom of God that, as the reading

today says, was created by God at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago wisdom was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

And that seems to be the things about wisdom, it often comes with age and experience. Not to say that children do not have wisdom, they do, and often their matter-of-fact statements and observations of the world would be good for the rest of us to take heed of. But as I have aged and I have spent time with those even older than myself, I have seen and heard how wisdom comes from experience and observation. I often joke that I claim every one of my 59 years of age as it is only in those years that I have garnered even the ounces of wisdom I have and am able to share with those whose life experience touch mine and we share in learning together.

Human wisdom is important and is part of our being made in the image of God. The first four verses of our reading proclaim how accessible wisdom is to everyone – all people. Hear these words again, “Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?” And this is where wisdom stands on display and is present for all... “On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads, she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: ‘To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.’”

Wisdom is accessible to anyone and everyone. For humans, we are born with some innate sense of wisdom, but it is also acquired throughout our life times. Just as wisdom was created at the beginning of God’s work, so is wisdom in us at the beginning of our lives and then witnesses to our growth, reflection, and understanding over the years.

The other thing about wisdom that is wonderful as represented in the last verse of our reading is wisdom “was beside God, like a master worker as creation was being created. Wisdom was a part of all that was and is created, including us. Wisdom as a master worker is an interesting, brilliant, and hopeful image. If wisdom is a part of us being made in the image of God, then we too have the potential to be master workers in creating and being creative.

This creativity may come in the form of leadership, artisanship, musicianship. It may be creativity in how we raise our families and, in some cases, how one is viewed as wisdom and knowledge keepers for our families, tribes, and communities. It is certain that wisdom is to be sought, understood, and be life-giving as God is life-giving. Wisdom knows when people’s lives will be harmed and stops before that happens. Wisdom knows how to comfort people in their grief, pain, sorrow, and suffering in ways that are life -sustaining, if even for a moment. Wisdom does not look for the good of just the individual, but looks to and for the well-being and health of all.

Wisdom delights and rejoices in creation and in creating. Wisdom delights in the human race. So often people think of God as a stern parent, yet I like to think that our laughter and tears of joy, our dancing and singing, are reflections of God’s laughter, joy, dancing

and singing. Wisdom is creative, delightful, a master worker. Wisdom is older than creation itself. Wisdom calls out to all that live, is accessible to all that live. It is not just for some but for all.

As you go from this time of worship, breath in the creation around you. Delight in the human race. Seek wisdom in others to guide you and reflect on wisdom for yourself. From the book of Proverbs, we know that wisdom has always been with God. From our experience of Jesus and the promise of the Holy Spirit we know that wisdom is present and always with us even to this day.

And when you watch or hear the news and all that is wrong with the world, as you seek to guide others and seek guidance yourself, as you make decisions about transitions in your life and that of those you love, pray that God's wisdom would be with you and others. As we seek to be communities of faith that witness to the creative, amazing, life-giving presence of God, may wisdom form in us and give us life, meaning, and purpose now and always.

I end with a reading I share from another author,

I was out shopping yesterday, and whom did I run into? Wisdom. Yeah, there she was. She called me over and we began talking, Wisdom and I. Then, I went down to the courthouse, and there she was again, making a plea for justice in some dingy courtroom where somebody had been unjustly accused. After that, I dropped by the school, and she had gotten there before me, calling for students and teachers alike always to seek truth. Then I went for a walk in the woods, moving along the trail in quiet meditation. Wisdom snuck up on me and said, "Now that we are alone, I have something I want to share with you, a present I want you to enjoy. You know, I have been around a long time, really before the beginning of time. I have been whirling and dancing with God all along. I am God's delight, laughing and playing. I want you to know the lightness of spirit and gladness that comes when you welcome me. Will you set aside those thoughts, words, and deeds that make life heavy and sad for you and others? Will you come and laugh and play with me? Will you come and dance with me? Will you?"<sup>1</sup>

## **Prayers of the People**

Holy God, Holy One and Holy Three,  
we bless you for bringing us into communion with you,  
offering us the same unity in love you share as the blessed Trinity.  
Help your church in all its branches discover the unity for which Christ prayed.  
May our unity in Christ show the world how to overcome divisions  
and enjoy the diverse gifts you have created in us.

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<sup>1</sup> Paschal, Jeff. *Feasting on the Word: Year C Volume 3 Pentecost and Season After Pentecost*. Editors David L. Bartlett, and Barbara Brown Taylor. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2010. P31.

By your Spirit, equip us to explore unity in diversity  
through local mission and ministry.

God of one loving heart,  
draw the human family together in the love that unites us with you.  
We pray for our nation and our local communities  
in this time when different experience and opinions so easily divide us.  
Where we have acted without regard for the needs of others,  
inspire us to work for justice and fairness.  
Where we have been blind to the pain of the oppressed,  
open our eyes to opportunities for reconciliation and caring.  
Guide the peoples of Canada to establish relationships of mutual respect and honour  
with indigenous communities, and celebrate our diverse gifts together.

God who wears the many faces of hope,  
we pray for all who feel despair or anxiety in these challenging days.  
Lift up in love those who find their illness unrelieved.  
Comfort those who grieve the loss of someone dear or some important opportunity.  
Support those who are denied dignity by the attitudes or actions of others  
and sustain those who long for healing of some kind.  
Hear us in this time of silence as we name before those on our hearts this day:

*Keep silence for at least 15 seconds.*

May they know your loving care upholding their lives.

God in community,  
thank you for the fellowship we share in our congregation.  
Strengthen us in faithful worship  
and equip us for service in changing times and challenging days.  
We offer our prayers, spoken and unspoken,  
as the Spirit prays within us,  
in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together, saying

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## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Acknowledgment of the Offering**

The season of Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the Church with the gifts need to serve others in Jesus' name. Let us offer God our gifts this day with grateful hearts and the generosity revealed in Christ himself.

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## Hymn

*Let all things now living*

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1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.
2. By law God enforces: the stars in their courses,  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine.  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise,  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

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## Benediction

May the holy wisdom of God  
Guard your ways and guide your paths  
May the living truth of God  
Enlighten your hearts and open your minds  
And may the living Spirit of God  
Give you life, and life to the full!

~ posted on Literature & Liturgy. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>

## Postlude