

## Call to Worship

The name of the Lord is majestic!

**The mountains tower and the seas roar in praise of God!**

When we look at the heavens, we rejoice in God!

**The moons, stars, planets, solar systems are a delight to us!**

Come, let us shout our praise to God!

**Lord, thank you for this awesome creation! AMEN.**

[Worship Connection: Trinity Sunday C](#)

## Hymn

*I sing the almighty power of God*

**333**

1. I sing the almighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eyes,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the skies.
3. There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that I could be,  
thou, God, art present there.

Words by Isaac Watts. Arrangement by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain.

## 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, now and always.

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. Amen.

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## Assurance of Pardon

Poured into our hearts, God's love gives us new life and hope.  
Touched by the fingers of God, we are restored to new life.

**This is good news! God loves us, God forgives us, God calls us to service!  
Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>1-11</sup> Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling?  
Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice?  
She's taken her stand at First and Main,  
at the busiest intersection.  
Right in the city square  
where the traffic is thickest, she shouts,  
"You—I'm talking to all of you,  
everyone out here on the streets!"  
<sup>22-31</sup> "God sovereignly made me—the first, the basic—  
before he did anything else.  
I was brought into being a long time ago,  
well before Earth got its start.  
I arrived on the scene before Ocean,  
yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes.  
Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape,  
I was already there, newborn;  
Long before God stretched out Earth's Horizons,  
and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather,  
And set Sky firmly in place,  
I was there.  
When he mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean,  
built the vast vault of Heaven,

and installed the fountains that fed Ocean,  
When he drew a boundary for Sea,  
posted a sign that said no trespassing,  
And then staked out Earth's Foundations,  
I was right there with him, making sure everything fit.  
Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause,  
always enjoying his company,  
Delighted with the world of things and creatures,  
happily celebrating the human family.

*The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Message Wisdom**

Today is an interesting day for worship. Many people are celebrating Father's Day. Today is also a day designated as National Indigenous People's Sunday, and for the church it is Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is one of the few Sundays in which a teaching of the church, that of the doctrine of Trinity, is upheld as something to be aware of and to learn about. Trinity being the concept of the Father or Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one.

Living Faith, which is a statement of faith written for the Presbyterian Church in Canada some years ago states,

Therefore, with the one church universal  
we believe in one God, eternal Trinity,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
three in one,  
one in three,  
equal in power and glory.  
God is the Father to whom we come,  
the Son through whom we come,  
the Spirit by whom we come.

Now, I am not going to get into the nitty gritty of this doctrine of Trinity today, other than to say that to try to describe the Trinity is really beyond us as so much of God is a mystery to us. Still, I am going to focus on one aspect of the Trinity, that of the Holy Spirit which in the Old Testament is also referred to as wisdom. And this brings us to this reading from Proverbs 8 which, on Father's Day, is about Woman Wisdom or as Eugene Peterson says in *The Message*, Lady Wisdom or Madame Insight.

With all the images of God that we have that are masculine, these words in Proverbs come as an insight into God that so many are quick to dismiss, that image of God as more than just a male figure. Here Lady or Woman wisdom calls out to everyone,

everywhere, those at the busiest intersections of life and everyone out on the streets, to listen!

But to whom are we listening and for what are we listening?

The scripture does not disappoint in giving us an answer to our query. We listen for the one that was created even before creation...Wisdom, the Holy Spirit. Some of the description of Lady Wisdom comes in words we did not hear today from this Proverb,

“I am Lady Wisdom, and I live next to Sanity;  
Knowledge and Discretion live just down the street.  
The Fear-of-God means hating Evil,  
whose ways I hate with a passion—  
pride and arrogance and crooked talk.  
Good counsel and common sense are my characteristics;  
I am both Insight and the Virtue to live it out.”<sup>1</sup>

What is heart warming, encouraging, wonderful, and simply down to earth, is that wisdom is found in the ordinary and everyday things of life. Wisdom is inherent, built into creation and, as part of God’s creation, wisdom is found in human beings. Albeit that often it is hard to see wisdom at work in people, but as we are created in and by wisdom, in and by God, we are connected to God’s wisdom and it can be found in us and around us in all that is created.

Sadly, as we look at the ways we disregard creation, the land, air, water, animals and flora as just part of what we can use as resources, we often forget that it was God’s wisdom that created all that is, and we are created in part as stewards of the creation, not to be exploiters of it.

This being National Indigenous People’s Sunday, it is wonderful to also touch on the Seven Grandfather Teachings which tie in wonderfully with the wisdom teachings of scripture. These teachings are referred to as gifts. The first gift being that of wisdom where it is said that “To cherish knowledge is to know **wisdom...The teacher of Wisdom is the Beaver.** The Beaver has the wisdom of foresight through careful planning and building that protects and sustains the family while honouring and preserving the natural environment.”<sup>2</sup>

The wisdom of the Indigenous People has been dismissed for decades by colonizers and yet this teaching is totally in line with the words about Woman Wisdom in Proverbs where we are taught that wisdom “arrived on the scene before Ocean, yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes. Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape, wisdom was already there, long before God stretched out Earth’s Horizons, and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather, and set Sky firmly in place...Wisdom was right there with God, making sure everything fit.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Message](#) (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Seven Grandfather Teachings - Georgian College](#)

Wisdom exists in all that was, is, and will be created just as God was and is and ever will be. So how do we go about recognizing wisdom in creation around us and in each other?

We do it by paying attention, by listening, by being still, and by learning. I had a professor once who said we should be someone who goes through life with a learner's heart. When we expect to learn each day from someone or something we will not be disappointed. It may be that we learn more about evil, about power, control, sin, death, and more, but we will also learn about compassion, care, forgiveness, hope, joy, and love. All of these things are part of life. If we can go through life with the intention to learn, to become wiser, it changes our perceptions and our perspectives about all of life.

We might even find that most of the time we can delight in God, creation, in others, and in the wisdom that becomes ours. The reading today closes with the words,

Day after day I [wisdom] was there, with my joyful applause,  
always enjoying God's company,  
Delighted with the world of things and creatures,  
happily celebrating the human family.<sup>3</sup>

At this time in our history, as in much of human history, there seems to be more to sorrow in that to delight in. Power and control over others and creation takes precedence over lifting up the brokenhearted or making sure that everyone has the basic necessities that are the intrinsic needs of every human being and show that every life has value. Remember that every piece of creation, every human being, and I mean **every one** is created by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit...Creator, Jesus, and Wisdom.

When we forget this or conveniently dismiss this teaching, this basic understanding, we displace wisdom...wisdom and more. We displace people, we abuse creation, we lose our own humanity. We also lose out on experiencing fully things that are of God...compassion, grace, love.

On this Father's Day, this National Indigenous People's Sunday, this Trinity Sunday, may we move from a place that lacks wisdom to a place where we celebrate God in the ordinary things and the ordinary moments, as well as the extraordinary. May we move to a place in our hearts, minds, and bodies where we are present with joyful applause of those who demonstrate and live in wisdom, always enjoying God's company, delighted with the world of things, and creatures, while happily celebrating the human family. May we live in and with wisdom this day and always.

I speak to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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<sup>3</sup> [\*The Message\*](#) (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

## 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.  
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 experiences 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.  
On this National Indigenous Peoples Sunday,  
we pray for Indigenous communities across this land.  
Grant them wisdom as they address the needs of their people.  
Bring healing to those who remember painful experiences.  
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.  
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:  
May they know your loving care upholding their lives.

God in community,  
thank you for the fellowship we share in our congregation.  
Through the work and wisdom of the Holy Spirit,  
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**

## Invitation to the offering

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

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There are various ways that people give to this congregation for our work as God's people, through signing up for a monthly donation, or sending an e-transfer.

Check out the opportunities to support St. Andrew's ministry at our website, [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, ON – Part of the PCCWeb network of churches](#)

## Hymn

*All creatures of our God and King*

**433**

1. All creatures of our God and King  
lift up your voice and with us sing:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
2. Wild rushing wind, unbounded, strong,  
high clouds that sail in heaven along:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
New rising dawn in praise rejoice,  
kind lights of evening, find a voice:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
3. Deep flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your God to hear:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,  
pierce now the dark with heat and light:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
4. Dear mother earth, who day by day  
brings forth your blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5. Let everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take their part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
give God your burdens and your care:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
6. Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:  
sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

"All creatures of our God and King." Words based on Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun."  
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## **Benediction**

Go out and in all of life, worship the Lord.  
Entrust yourself to the winds of God's Spirit;  
and offer yourself for God's mission in the world.  
And may God give strength to you and to all;  
May Christ Jesus bless you with peace;  
And may the Holy Spirit, whispering within your hearts,  
.....give you assurance that you are God's children.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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