



# HOLY TRINITY

June 7, 2020

***St. Stephen's is a Christian community in the making.***

At the intersection of what was and what will be, we invite you to gather with us around prayer, food, and the simple conviction that nothing is wasted in God's economy.

***All are welcome at St. Stephen's.***

Whether you come with great faith or great doubt,  
regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or marital status,  
whatever your financial status or housing situation –  
we hope you can find a home with us  
as we explore together what it means to follow Jesus.

**Ministry Team**

<b>Priest &amp; Lead Pastor</b>	The Reverend Jeff Potter jeff@ststephensmaple.ca (416) 569-4263
<b>Honorary Assistant</b>	The Reverend Mary Pataki mary@ststephensmaple.ca
<b>Director of Music</b>	Scott Weidler scott@ststephensmaple.ca
<b>Pastor to Children and Families</b>	Becky Potter becky@ststephensmaple.ca
<b>Pastor of Outreach</b>	Karen Shea karen@ststephensmaple.ca



**ST. STEPHEN'S**

**ANGLICAN CHURCH, MAPLE**

## Preparation

*Whether you participate in worship in a small group or alone,  
know that you are joined together with the whole St. Stephen's community  
and the wider church as we offer our prayers and praise to God.*

*Consider setting a candle or two out in the space you're using for worship,  
as a reminder of God's presence. Light the candles, and say:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Seek the Lord

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the evil ones their thoughts;  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth,  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,  
and prosper in that for which I sent it. *(Isaiah 55.6–11)*

## Collect of the Day

Father, we praise you:  
through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things.  
You reveal your salvation in all the world  
by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
Through your Holy Spirit  
you give us a share in your life and love.  
Fill us with the vision of your glory,  
that we may always serve and praise you,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

## Psalm 8

O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—  
**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**  
**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**  
**human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.  
**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**  
**you have put all things under their feet:**

all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**  
**and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul writes: Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

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

## Gospel: 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.”

## Reflection – Jeff+

*The following reflection can be watched online by [clicking here](#)  
or can be read in full below.*

*Please feel free to engage with either or both options,  
and know that whatever you choose  
will enable you to fully participate in the worship of our community.*

It's tempting to avoid things that are hard.

Talking about the doctrine of the Trinity is hard. Which is why there is a longstanding and only partially humorous tradition in Anglican circles of asking the intern or theological student to preach on Trinity Sunday. It's a strange and uncharitable mix of hazing – because talking about the Trinity is hard – and avoidance – because talking about the Trinity is hard.

But this is a time for rising to meet things that are hard.

And, the Trinity is vitally important to all of us who call ourselves Christian. It's not just an abstract theological concept, best kept for academics and bible-study keepers. I firmly believe that all theology is practical theology, and the Trinity is an important way of framing our understanding of ourselves, our world, and our God.

It's not by accident that the appointed readings for Trinity Sunday begin with a reading from Genesis, about the beautiful, deliberate, joyful process by which the world and everything in it was made. It's important to remember that this isn't meant to be read as history or as science, or even as disembodied theology. This is an inspired text that seeks to reveal something deeply true about God, and about us.

Because having joyfully and deliberately ordered everything that is, God joyfully and deliberately creates humanity in the image of God. In a sense, we're made to be like God – but at the same time, to understand that we are part of the created order and are not God.

I'm persuaded that the best way to understand what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God is to understand that we're created with a unique and defining capacity for relationship. It's not our intellect, our creative abilities, our physical form, or anything else that makes us like God. Instead, it's our ability to deeply and lovingly enter into relationship with one another and with God. To find ourselves in a profound way, even as we give ourselves away.

This is, perhaps, best understood in relation to the fact of the Trinity. We understand God to be Father, Son and Holy Spirit - not because God is masculine or feminine, but because these are revealed and distinct persons in the Godhead. Which means that God is, deep in God's own being, relationship.

We often say that God is love. Which is true, but incomplete. Because love first requires the possibility of relationship.

So, at the heart of a deeply mysterious revelation is a simple truth: that God cannot be understood apart from loving, mutually self-giving relationship.

And, it follows, that the extent to which we are able to be like God will depend upon the extent to which we choose to participate in loving, mutually self-giving relationship with God and with one another.

Which is why the whole rabbinic tradition and Jesus himself tell us that the greatest commandment is this – to love God with all our heart and soul and being, and to love each other in the same way.

This is not prescriptive. God doesn't issue this command so that we might be punished if we fail to live up to it. Instead, it's descriptive. This commandment describes the only way to truly live a life that is fully human. In at least 500 American cities across all 50 states, and at least 18 other countries around the world, peaceful protests are taking place. Because the brutal killing of George Floyd was evil, and laid bare for the world to see the deep roots of systemic racism that continues to work against Black, Indigenous and people of colour. Not just in the United States. Not just in Canada. But here. Even, and sometimes especially, in the church.

That's a hard thing to say, but these are the days for speaking hard truths.

And as with all social justice movements, these protests aren't just about George Floyd – he has come to symbolize something. Deep wrongs that must be righted.

Because this isn't about some kind of modern, liberal understanding of social justice or equality. In fact, the doctrine of the Trinity helps to understand why these things go right to the very root of what we believe. If our humanity itself is rooted in our capacity to love and live in properly ordered relationship with each other, then it is necessarily true that a system that doesn't work for some of us, doesn't work for any of us.

Which is why racism is evil in the truest sense of the word. It draws us away from the love of God, from the lives we were created to live. It demeans and defiles and corrupts. It prevents us from being fully human.

And this is why these protests have spread across the world. Because our deepest sense of self, our very souls, tell us that we can and we must be better. Our very humanity is at stake.

So may we affirm in the strongest terms that black lives matter. May we be given the grace and courage to rise to meet the hard things that the days and weeks ahead will undoubtedly bring. And may we see that our calling to be the people of God demands that we actively work for peace and justice among all people, fearlessly entering into relationships marked by mutual self-giving. For that is where we encounter the Triune God.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

*As a community of people made one in Christ, we offer our prayers to God for ourselves,  
our community, and the world. Feel free to adapt these prayers as you like,  
and to make use of the spaces indicated to add your own prayers and petitions.*

Let us pray together to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we thank you for your many gifts to us,  
for the love which brings us together,  
for the earth which provides for our needs,  
for the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ,  
(for . . . ).

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray to you for our Christian family (especially for . . . )  
and for grace to grow in your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray to you for our world, for all its cares and needs,  
and for all who lead us and care for us, (especially . . . )

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray to you for those in need, for the sick and the lonely,  
for the hurt and the frightened, and for those who live without hope (especially . . . ).

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those we love who have died, that you will surround them with your care and love  
(especially . . . )

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for one another, asking you to bless us, our friends, and relatives.  
Bless the places where we work, and bless our home and our life together.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers.

*A period of silence is kept as we offer silent prayer  
and listen for the leading of the Spirit.*

Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong,  
the sorrows we have caused, the love we have not shown.

**Most merciful God, forgive us our sins against you and against each other.**

**Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,  
that we may live in love as you would have us live,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

**Grant that we may walk in your presence  
and experience the present truth of resurrection:  
your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds,  
your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey,  
we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May joy and nothing less find us on our way.

May we be blessed and be a blessing.

And may light guide us, and countless others, all the way home.

**Amen.**

May we go in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good,  
return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted,  
support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**



# MUSIC

Following are several hymns that you may want to sing and/or listen to.  
Music and texts, as well as sample YouTube links, are provided.

## Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty



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 eye of sin - ful - ness 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 pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBAps6KOzNU>

## Here in this Place New Light Is Streaming



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBMHafLXghA>

For other hymns, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGLVPtOYRgM>



# ST. STEPHEN'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH, MAPLE

10103 Keele Street  
Maple, Ontario, L6A 3Y8  
416-569-4263  
[www.ststephensmaple.ca](http://www.ststephensmaple.ca)