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Christ Church United Methodist

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1st Sunday after Pentecost, May 26th, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

*\*Please stand*

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude** *Variations on NICAEA*

Martha Sobaje

\*Call to Worship

One: We come knocking at the doors of faith

All: Seeking answers to the mysteries of life.

One: God answers us with love,

All: Love wider, deeper, higher, greater than anything we have known before. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Praise** 64 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* NICAEA

1. Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning

our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy!

Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons,

blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!

All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim

falling down before thee,

which wert, and art, and

evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy!

Though the darkness hide thee,

though the eye of sinful man

thy glory may not see,

only thou art holy;

there is none beside thee,

perfect in power, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name,

in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy!

Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

**Opening Prayer**

**Lord, your awesome presence fills the cosmos, we revel in the work of your hands. Open our hearts, minds, and doors so that we might be ready to meet and be changed by you here today. Amen**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his**

**name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the

waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful,**

**the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,

**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

The Lord makes Lebanon to skip like a

calf, and Sirion like a young wild Ox.

**The voice of the Lord flashes forth**

**flames of fire.**

The voice of he Lord shakes the

wilderness,

**the Lord shakes the wilderness of**

**Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord makes oaks to

whirl, and strips the forest bare;

**and in his temple all cry, “Glory!’**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as Ruler

forever.

**May the Lord give strength to his**

**people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Music of Preparation HOLY MANNA

*150 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

1. God, who stretched

the spangled heavens,

infinite in time and place,

flung the sun in burning radiance

through the silent fields of space,

we your children, in your likeness,

share inventive powers with you.

Great Creator, still creating,

show us what we yet may do.

2. Proudly rise our modern cities,

stately buildings, row on row;

yet their windows, blank, unfeeling,

stare on canyoned streets below,

where the lonely drift unnoticed

in the city’s ebb and flow,

lost to purpose and to meaning;

scarcely caring where they go.

3. We have ventured

worlds undreamed of

since the childhood of our race;

known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;

probed the secrets of the atom,

yielding unimagined power,

facing us with life’s destruction

or our most triumphant hour.

4. As each far horizon beckons

may it challenge us anew,

children of creative purpose,

saving others, honoring you.

May our dreams prove

rich with promise,

each endeavor well begun.

Great Creator, give us guidance

till our goals and yours are one.

Gospel Lesson John 3:1-17 (NRSV)

Sermon Being Church: a knowing beyond knowing

**Music of Response**

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

O God, You are holy, and deep within ourselves, where our souls touch the ground, where our being meets your being,  
we are on holy ground and your holiness surrounds us and calls our name. In your presence, we name the times when we have failed others, failed ourselves, and failed you. Touch us with the tenderness of your forgiveness. In your presence, we breathe in new life as your sacredness opens in us new joy and peace. Dwell in us as in a holy temple, that we may know your eternal love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Adapted from work by William Loader*

Pastor:  Hear the Good News, Christ is among us renewing us for life with love.  In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Christ you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God, Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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, forever, Amen.

\*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Offering

**Offertory** *My Tribute* Andrae Crouch

Tom Messmore, solo

\*Doxology 94 *Praise God,*

*from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*Offertory Prayer

**\*Sending Hymn** *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity* KINGSFOLD

1. Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun -

the interweaving of the Three: the Father, Spirit, Son.

The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,

but as the Three in love and hope, made room within their dance.

2. Come, see the face of Trinity, new born in Bethlehem;

then bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem.

The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;

when fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the stone.

3. Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame

set people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior’s name.

We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth; go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!

4. Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,

we sing the praises of the Three: the Father, Spirit, Son.

Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,

to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace

**Postlude**  *Toccata No. 1*  (*HYFRYDOL*) Joel Raney

Liturgist: Bob Stobe

Stephen Minister: Georgia Carmichael

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

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“Holy Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826 (Rev. 4:8-11)

“What a Mighty God We Serve”

Words: Traditional African folk song

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Words: Cahterine Cameron, 1967

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