

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Unison

Giving God, we are grateful for your wisdom, for beauty, for the ways in which we see your glory in all creation. Most of all, we thank you for caring for us and for entrusting to us the ministry of caring for the earth and for one another. May these offerings extend the faith and honor you: Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Holy Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty*
UMH 64 (vs.1 & 4)

***BENEDICTION** Responsive

God, you have presented to us your spectacular creation.

In some ways, it is fragile and needs our care.

Lead us to care for creation and especially for each other.

God, you came and walked among us and gave yourself so that we might have eternal life.

We cherish the gift that has been given and remember that it is a gift to share. Help and share your love with all, O God.

There are times when we do not know what to say, what to do or even what to pray.

Enter our heart Holy Spirit and fulfill your promise to meet our need to believe and direct our mission to love. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Worship Resources "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
June 12th, 2022
"Trinity Sunday"



The United Methodist Church

8:30 AM at Central-Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

9:45 AM at Atlas

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
June 12th, 2022
“Trinity Sunday”

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with You!”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive**

God finds delight in humanity, and in each of us.

Let us rejoice before the majesty of our Creator.

God of grace and glory, who made all things,

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

In Christ, we are called to endure and to hope.

Let us give thanks for a faith that brings peace.

God of grace and glory, Savior of your people,

How precious to us is your gift of Jesus Christ!

The Holy Spirit is present to guide and direct us,

Let us listen so that we may hear and do what is true.

God of grace and glory, ever present with us,

How reassuring is the love with which you surround us! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN *We Believe in One True God* UMH 85**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Amazing God, revealed to us in more ways than we can count, yet binding in unity all that was and is and yet shall be, we worship you. Source of mountains and seas, giver of light and darkness, we marvel at the work of your hands. Reconciler and Redeemer, we are awed by the forgiving love that draws us to you and empowers us to care for one another. Spirit of truth, whose guidance is available to us every day, we rejoice in your transforming presence. Triune God, bless, we pray, this gathering of your disciples, in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

UMH 191 (vs. 1)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 16:12-15

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Holy Trinity”

Rev. Tom Cook (G)

“Living The Spiritual Life”

Kathy Gionis (A & SCF)

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Great God, heal our vision as we walk with you in your garden. May we sense your presence with our eyes open seeing your world and our neighbor. Give us that great gift of appreciation so we can know how rich we are. You have given us the world to love and rule and given us helpmates to walk with us in this journey we call life. We have made so many mistakes in our living that we are hardly deserving of your love but it is your way of relating with us and we have come to depend on you, the creation you have given us to live in and rule, the love you given us when you took our punishment on the cross, and the guidance and love you infuse into our hearts by your Holy Spirit. We praise you for all your gifts. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND

OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

JUNE CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year round.</p> 	<p>Support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry</p> 	<p>JUNE Mission We will CONTINUE supporting the food shelf!</p> 
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>WE WILL CONTINUE COLLECTING CHURCH SUPPLIES & SUPPORT HARBOR HOUSE FINANCIALLY.</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

<p>Food Shelf</p> <p><i>(Communion Sunday)</i></p> 	<p>Sailor Hat Offering:</p> <p><i>June's Sailor hat offering will go to support CRA & the BUTTERFLY HOUSE!</i></p> 
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Today's Service

Central:
 Guest Preacher Tom Cook
 Pianist Toni Koons
 Liturgist LuAnne Martell
 Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
 Lawn Mowing Dave Huff
 Fellowship Toni Koons
 Counter **Volunteer Needed**
 Cleaning Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
 Sunday School Younger/Older
 LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Guest Preacher Kathy Gionis
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Colleen Adams-Schween
 Usher(s) Don Schween
 Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**
 Sunday school Younger/Older
 Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

Guest Preacher Kathy Gionis
 Pianist Sharon Asp
 Liturgist Jim Andrews
 Usher(s) Jim Andrews
 Money Counter Peter Gionis
 Bell Ringer Jim Andrews
 Flowers Kathy Gionis



BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

"This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29)
 Please pray every morning at 8:30, if you are able!

"Please pray for those who are victims of gun violence, and their family members and for peace in the world!"

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday at 10:30 am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page. Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Trinity Sunday. God bless you!

Thank you very much to those who joined in the celebratory joint service at SCF last Sunday, and Rummage Sale at Central. We can revitalize the church together!

Sunday Worship Service:

- 6/12: 8:30 am Grantsburg with Zoom
9:45 am Atlas
11:15 am St. Croix Falls (no Zoom at this time)
- 6/10-6/13: Annual Conference in Green Bay (*Pastor Jenny, Sue Olson and Barb Loomis are attending.*)
- 6/16: 10 am to Noon, New Ministry Strategy Team of Board Meeting (Pastor Jenny)
4pm, Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries:

- Deb Hammer 6/15
Jamie & Mike Steffen 6/16
Sally Aldorfer 6/17
Leland Snyder 6/18
Shane Tooze 6/19
Judith McCann 6/20



Next Sunday (June 19th) Volunteers:

Ministers	All God's People <i>Pastor Jenny Lee</i>
Central:	
Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Toni Koons
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland/Leland Snyder
Lawn Mowing	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Dave Huff
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Usher(s)	Don Schween
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday school	Younger/Older Summer Break

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Karen Sciacca
Usher(s)	Jim Andrews
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Andrews
Flowers	Kathy Gionis
Fellowship	Ad council members



June 19: Father's Day

June 21: AD Council Meeting (A & G)

June 24: Confirmation Class

Recently, I was having automotive repairs done and there was no way I could leave the place so I put down these few lines of what I will call poetry.

God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
By definition God's the most
The most knowing, strong and loving too.
God will bring God's best to you.
The Father, maker of all that is
Has given life its form and fizz.
The Son took flesh so we could see
In human form who sets us free
God's total nature's beyond our reach,
Spirit enters our hearts to love and teach.

My hat it has three corners
Three corners has my hat
If the hat has not three comers
Then it is not my hat.

So go the words to a little ditty that I learned somewhere back in the long ago history of my life. I have often used these words when talking about the Trinity on the Trinity Sunday.

We use the expression "wearing a hat" as talking about a role we have taken on or a truth we have decided to accept. We may say of a man; he wears many hats or has many personas. He is grandfather, father, brother, cousin, friend, neighbor, technician, counselor, gardener, husband, coworker and neighbor. And though we can identify these different roles we do not imagine that the person we are talking about is many different persons. This one is one person with several different ways that they relate in life. Even as we relate to life we also relate between the various roles we have. So it is with God, sharing and learning is done in relationship.

As a child I often talked to the trees. The world has always seemed to me to be beyond knowing completely, so, I guess I wanted to let God's creation explain itself. They say that to young children everything is magic since they have no explanations for any of it, it is magic.

As we get older we learn things and the world seems a little tamer until someone asks a question like how did this all come to be. One philosopher's guess, that I remember is that in the beginning all the atoms were traveling parallel to each other. Then one of the atoms wiggled and it started a chain reaction that eventually ended up bringing us and this whole scene into reality giving us the reality that we are now living in. That was some wiggle. No dancer, Fred Astaire or Ginger Rodgers ever wiggled like that. The Lord of the Dance is my choice.

I personally am more prone to the belief that whether there was a wiggle or a big bang, that there was a guiding hand. I have chosen to believe that that guiding hand was and is God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God it was who "danced in the morning when the world was begun." God gives life its form and fizz. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." That is the Genesis version. In the Gospel of John we read, "In the beginning was the word (in the original Greek, logos or plan) All things were made through him.

Living in God's garden should be so simple. Simply enjoy all of this magic that God has made.

There are flowers and trees and atoms and molecules. There are elements and compounds. There are wonders all around. Tastes and sights to serve our curiosity and give us the things we need and want. There are bits of reality too small to see with an electron microscope. There are stars and galaxies so large and spread over such vast space that we can only wonder about the God who made them. We have chosen to know like Adam and Eve. We have eaten the forbidden fruit of knowledge only to discover that our knowledge is partial. It leaves us feeling exposed. We don't know and we feel that we should. So, we hunger to know more and more. I want you to know that I don't believe that all knowledge is of the same value. Some things are much fuller known than others. Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit at sea level.

This has been observed by billions of experimenters and their knowledge shared and compared. You can pretty much depend on that. But many of the questions we need to have answers to are not nearly so plain. We were told by our leader that Covid 19 was nothing to worry about that it would fade away. We began to treat our medical knowledge as if scientific observation were unimportant. That isn't how I choose to treat medical know how. I want to know that the people I trust with my health have studied and learned their art. I know their knowledge isn't perfect but there are degrees of knowing that are better. But let's look at some more difficult questions.

Sometime after my 82nd birthday I decided that I would have to admit that I don't know anything. Partly knowing is to not know. Someone says something to us like, "I love you!" But what does that person believe about themselves? Who is the "I", the person speaking and what does being a person mean to them? What does loving mean to that person? Who do they think "You" are. Do we know the answers to these questions or a hundred others that might be asked?

Well, what do we do? We choose to believe. We experience our reality and what we see of God's garden and we think we can be like God and know, but we can't. So looking at reality as carefully as we can, we share and compare, and then we choose to believe something or someone. I hope that you have made the same choice I have, that you have chosen to believe Jesus. And I know that what you believe about Jesus will be different to some degree from what I believe because you have had different experiences than I have, It will also be like what I believe because we have the common sources of the Bible and the church and God making God's self known.

When we see Jesus, we see what the Father looks like and when we invite the Spirit into our lives we are choosing to let God teach us God's ways. God wants to do that and is very patient. You've heard the expression: P.B.P.W.M.G.I.F.W.M.Y. Please, be patient with me, God isn't finished with me yet. Jesus promised the disciples that God would send his Spirit to them and that is God's promise to us as well. We come then to experience God in different ways.

We experience the One who shows us what God has done and made.

We experience God with us who showed us the depth of God's love, living faithfully, sharing what he knew, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, even raising the dead, forgiving sinners and sharing the good news that God loves us unconditionally. He spoke to the Father on the cross about those who were crucifying him, "Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing."

And God takes up residence in us, not waiting for us to become perfect but encouraging and teaching and loving us with the Spirit. So, yes, I do believe in the trinity. It is how I have experienced God. It is the three-cornered hat that I have chosen to wear, it is what I have chosen to believe. I believe that it is the three-cornered hat that the Bible shows us and the church has lifted up for more than 2000 years. So when I look at all that God has made and remember that I am forgiven because of Jesus and sense that Holy Spirit revealing the wonders of God and bringing love and wisdom into my very being I have no trouble saying I believe in God who has shown God's self through the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, One God, three persons. God chose to wear a three cornered hat. Amen.

LIVING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE (John 16:12-15)

By Kathy Gionis

Today is Trinity Sunday, and as Christians we understand that God is "Three in One". God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This is not an easy theological concept and it is a concept that is most likely better experienced than explained. Matthew 3:16 says, "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him." Most of us probably have pictures in our minds from Sunday School or children's books of what this must have looked like.

In Matthew, Chapter 28 verses 19-20, Jesus gives the Great Commission to the eleven disciples after his Resurrection: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."

When Jesus was confronted by one of the teachers of the law about which commandment was the most important one, Jesus prefaced his answer with, "The Lord our God, the Lord is One." Mark 12: verse 29. John 1:14 says: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

So, noting that this is Trinity Sunday, and the Scripture reading is from Chapter 16 of John, the little tidbit that we get is part of a larger discussion that Jesus had with his disciples immediately after the Last Supper in Jerusalem and the night before his crucifixion. This Farewell Discourse is given by Jesus to eleven of his disciples and is contained in four chapters, chapters 14-17. Jesus tells the disciples that he will be going away and that he will send the Holy Spirit to guide them.

Jesus instructs them to live in peace and commands them to love one another. "Love one another as I have loved you." He tells them, as in today's reading, that when the Spirit comes, he will guide the disciples and, "He will declare to you the things that are to come". John 16:13(b). Wouldn't it be nice that if over the past couple of years, we would be blessed with knowing what the future was going to hold? Instead, we have all experienced a rather chaotic time of it. Our life routines have been turned upside down. Our predictable and consistent life-style of work, family, church and leisure are no longer predictable. So, we don't know the things to come, and neither did the disciples. In this discourse, Jesus is giving them instructions for when he is gone. Jesus tells the disciples he will go to the Father and reassert his divine relationship with Him. Jesus affirms his relationship with the Father and tells the disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father". "Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father." He commands the disciples to love each other and informs them of the arrival of the Holy Spirit. He wants to give them the gift of peace and of courage. He advises them that they will be the objects of conflict and hatred, just as Jesus was, for no reason or for no cause. Jesus is the worried parent here, giving instructions to the disciples to carry on his work that He started. In our reading today, Jesus is telling them that the Spirit will come and guide them. The disciples have important work to do and Jesus is telling them how they can be in touch-through the Holy Spirit.

These four chapters focus on bringing God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit together and emphasize to the disciples that the way to the Father is through the Son, and the Spirit will be there to guide them. Peace and love were the messages that Jesus wanted the disciples to practice and to spread as establishing Christ's new church. They were wildly successful when you look at the spread of Christianity worldwide and for over 2000 years.

I'm reading a book entitled, "All the Light We Cannot See", by Anthony Doerr. Although it was published in 2014 and the paperback in 2017, the relevancy today, in 2022, since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, is eerie and heartbreaking. The story takes place as Germany is preparing to invade Europe in the late 1930's,

and morphs into World War II and is about the lives that were changed forever or in many cases, prematurely ended, because of the greed for power, land, art, jewels, money, status. The insanity of what led up to the military invasions and kept it going is incomprehensible. It is a rottenness of the soul, an immorality, a selfishness and lack of compassion for one's fellow human being. Poor Ukraine! Germany invaded Ukraine in the early 1940's, much the same as Russia is invading Ukraine today. What has me completely baffled, is what are the invaders thinking? What are the leaders thinking? I think that the vastness of the criminality in World War II was not really known until after the war. To think that invaders can march into another country and appropriate the culture, the art, the lifestyle, the wealth, the food, and just make it theirs. As though they are entitled to it.

So, it makes me wonder what the long-term plan is for the perpetrators of the Russian invasion. How much is enough? How much land, power, wealth, jewels, money is enough? What's the point? We see "evil" written all over this.

This certainly is not the message that Jesus left with his disciples. I think there are lessons here for Christians all over the world. This can be a time to re-access our own lives and priorities. How much worldly treasure do we need? How can we lift up others not as fortunate as ourselves? Can we take a stand when we see racial and social discrimination? How can we contribute to a caring and respectful analysis about our country and our goals and aspirations as a nation? Is it possible to have fruitful and courteous discussions with other people who don't share our views?

If we are able to incorporate Jesus' commandments to love one another and strive for peace in our souls, and to listen to the Holy Spirit, we are more apt to achieve a life of community and connection. This is Trinity Sunday, a time when we celebrate the mystery that is the nature of God. A God that is one, but that is experienced and approached in three ways. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

AMEN