



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

May 21-27, 2018

## Trinity Sunday

Sermon by Rev. Kelley Lane: *"The Fullness of God"*

Notes from sermon on 5/20:

Prayer requests:

### Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

What does it mean to be saved?

### 3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

Jesus invites us to be born from above to receive new and abundant life. Salvation, or abundant life, is understood as a present reality in the Gospel of John. If the gift of God's love made known to us in Christ through the Spirit is stirred up by gratitude, what daily practice could increase your sense of gratitude? How could a simple practice of thanking God at any given moment in the day enliven your experience of salvation? Could the discipline of journaling help you to become more aware of the ways God is at work in our world?

### Monday, May 21: Read John 3:1-10

On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the miracle of relationship. While there is no doctrine of the Trinity in the Bible, the concepts of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are everywhere, including our readings for this week. The dynamic relationship between the three persons of God, always on the move, always interceding for humans and Creation, sets the foundation for the relationships we were created to have with our selves, each other, and God. Science, nature, and common wisdom show that we live longer and are happiest when in healthy human relationships. Our faith shows us that we experience life-giving, joyful, eternal life when in relationship with our Triune God.

Today's reading from the gospel of John was written during a time decades after Christ's ascension when the children of Israel were experiencing discord and brokenness. The Jews who believed in Jesus as God's Messiah had been shut out of the Temple. Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, shows a willingness to ask,

seek, listen, and explore a new way of thinking through the Spirit. How can we follow the Holy Spirit in our lives to listen to a different perspective, heal a relationship, or grow closer to another?

**Tuesday, May 22: Read John 3:11-17**

The love of our Triune God is epitomized in this most famous passage today. After having explained to Nicodemus about the life-giving power of the Spirit, Jesus reveals the loving intent of the Father in sending the Son into the world to not condemn it, but save it. This sacrificial love for all of humankind has released us from our worst selves, showing us the way to experience eternal joy, healing, and transformation. How could our world be transformed if everyone accepted the peace, forgiveness, and love God is offering? How many could be saved if we all modeled the sacrificial love of the Trinity toward one another?

**Wednesday, May 23: Read Romans 8:12-17**

Our scripture today mentions all three persons of God: Father, Son, and Spirit, and invites us to allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit into the family of God. What we may not realize without knowing ancient Hebrew, however, is just how intimate and revolutionary this relationship with God can be through Christ. The traditional word for God throughout the Old Testament was “YHWH”, which we read in most translations as LORD (notice the all caps). This word was so sacred and feared, it was not even to be pronounced aloud. In today’s passage, however, we are invited to cry “Abba!” which best translates as “Daddy!” just as a child would say running into a loving dad’s arms. This is the relationship Abba, the Son, and the Spirit are inviting us into – now and forever. This is the family to which we are all being called.

**Thursday, May 24: Read Isaiah 6:1-8**

Lest we forget the majesty, glory, and power of God the Father, our last two readings for the week paint beautiful pictures of the holy LORD sitting on high, in full glory. Even then, however, God is not unapproachable, removed from the work needed in the world, or without mercy. The prophet describes that while he was sinful and unworthy (as we all are!), God had a plan for “blotting out” his sin, cleansing him, and sending him into the world to do God’s work. As heirs to the New Testament, we can see the foreshadowing of God the Son- Jesus Christ – as the agent that has blotted out our sins and restored our relationship with God, allowing us to approach the throne with confidence and say, “Here I am, send me!”

**Friday, May 25: Read Psalm 29**

Today, let us praise the LORD, YHWH, for all of the glory, strength, power, and majesty so exquisitely described in today’s Psalm. Let us then marvel that this is the same God we can run to, crying, “Abba! Father!” The same God who came down in human form, was born in a barn, and allowed himself to be nailed to a cross so that we could have eternal life with him. The same God who guides us, intercedes for us, fills us, and empowers us to be God’s representatives on Earth. This is the God- Father, Son, and Spirit- with whom we are all called to be in relationship, now and forever.

**Saturday, May 26: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Romans 8:14**

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.”

**Sunday, May 27: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in prayer our Prayer of**

**Common Confession:** Holy God, we know that you are always there to lead us, yet we somehow lose our way and fall back into fear. We confess that we have stumbled, and we recognize our need for you to lift us up and help us start again. Forgive us our failings, restore us to strength, and reconcile us with you, ourselves, and each other, through the power of Christ and the gift of your Spirit. Amen.