Worship Resources for June 16th, 2019—Trinity Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Narrative Lectionary: Series on Psalms, Psalm 113 (Luke 15:8-10)

On Trinity Sunday, we remember that not only is God in relationship with us, God is in relationship with their own self. In other words, God *is* relationship. We begin this season after Pentecost with the voice of Wisdom from Proverbs 8. Wisdom recounts how she was the first act of God’s creation, before the universe and the earth was made, and was present with God, delighting in the work of creation, especially human beings.

Psalm 8 speaks to the wonder and awe that one has of God in making the universe. The psalmist wonders what are human beings, in comparison to who God is and what God has done, and yet, God has made them a little lower than heavenly beings. God has given humanity dominion over creation, the way God has dominion over humanity. Human beings are cared for by God, and therefore, are made to care for creation.

Paul speaks of being justified by faith and having peace with God through Jesus Christ in Romans 5:1-5. For a people who had faced persecution and suffering, Paul was assuring them that their suffering would produce endurance and hope—not that God wants us to suffer, but that we can grow from our suffering caused by the world. We have hope, given to us by the love of God the Holy Spirit has poured upon us.

Jesus tells the disciples in John 16:12-15, as part of his final discourse, that the Spirit of Truth will take what belonged to him and give it to the disciples. In other words, the Holy Spirit will continue to speak the Gospel to their hearts, the Good News of God’s love. The Holy Spirit will guide the followers of Jesus into all the truth.

The Narrative Lectionary begins a four-part series on the Psalms in this season after Pentecost, beginning with Psalm 113. The psalmist celebrates God, the one who is above all nations, seated on high, but who looks down and sees the poor. God raises up the poor from the dust, the needy from the ashes, and raises them to sit with princes. God gives the barren women—women who would have been seen as cursed or useless—a home and children. God sees the needs of those who are oppressed, those who might be hidden from the privileged point of view—and gives them power, authority, and joy.

Luke 15:8-10 is Jesus’ Parable of the Lost Coin. Jesus uses the image of a woman searching for a lost coin to explain how God is search for the lost, and how as a woman who finds a lost coin rejoices and calls others to celebrate, so God and all the angels rejoice.

Trinity Sunday is not only about the relationship of God to God’s Self—Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, but about God’s relationship with humanity and all of creation. Theologians call this the “tri-relational nature of God.” In this season after Pentecost, we know the Holy Spirit continues to be at work within us, beside us, and all around us, as God is in relationship with God’s self, with humanity, and all of creation.

Call to Worship

God our Creator is making all things new;

 **Pay attention to all God is doing in the world.**

Jesus our Savior is showing us a new way;

 **Follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

The Holy Spirit is inspiring new gifts in each of us;

 **Listen in your heart for what the Holy Spirit is teaching you.**

May we join our hearts in worship of our one God,

 **Our Maker, Redeemer, and Sustainer of us all.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Almighty One, we confess that we easily succumb to the patterns of the past. We fall back into habits and old ways, because the path behind us is known, and the way ahead is not. Help us to trust that You are always making things new. Move us to tap that deep knowledge that Jesus has traveled this way before us and is with us now. Lead us into knowing Your Spirit is present with us always, now, and forever. In all the names we know You, we know You as One, our God of all, and may we rest assured of Your grace, forgiveness, mercy, and peace. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance (from Hebrews 11:1)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Though we may not see God, we can perceive God all around us. The best ways we know God is through the love of one another, as Christ commanded us. Love one another, and you will know God’s love. Forgive one another, and you will know forgiveness. Extend mercy to one another, and you will know God’s mercy. Be present with one another, and you will know God’s presence. Go, and share the Good News. Amen.

Prayer

Creator of the Universe, we know You hold our past, present, and future. We know You are beyond our comprehension. We know You are at work in the entire universe, and we are one people on one of the smallest planets. Help us to understand how small we really are, and how much we need each other. You created us in relationship, but we distort and abuse that relationship with one another and with creation. Guide us to a deeper understanding, O God, for the universe is incredibly vast, and we think we know more than we do, and that is dangerous. Guide us to a deeper love, O God, so that we might know more fully Your created intention for humanity. Guide us to a deeper truth, O God, that our time is short, and the world You have made for us is in need. Blessed Triune One, keep us in awe of You, so that we might remember the responsibility You have given us, to love one another, to love this earth, and to love You. Amen.