

THE HOLY TRINITY

May 30, 2021

10 A.M. Blended



GLORY TO THE FATHER
THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,
TO GOD WHO IS, WHO WAS, AND WHO IS TO COME.

© Dicoxon

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God,, since You have given us, Your servants, grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith, and to worship the true Unity in the power of Your divine majesty, keep us also steadfast in this true faith and worship, and defend us ever from all our adversaries; for You, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday Musician: 10 a.m.— Susanne Anderson
Sunday Reader: 10 a.m.— Nathan Kuhl

Sunday School: Trinity – <https://youtu.be/F2PIWG2TxkQ>
Precious Moments: Paul and Silas— <https://youtu.be/z7JQ9hevI2M>
Children’s Message : Trinity— <https://youtu.be/M2taJCFskEA>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Deut. 6: 4-13 Wed.: Eph. 4: 1-6 Friday: Eph. 1: 3-14
Tuesday: Col. 2: 1-9 Thurs: 1 Tim. 3: 14-16 Saturday: John 5: 17-23.

WORSHIP NOTE:

- **Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM** on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC>).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

WORSHIP NOTE FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021:

Dear family of Christ Lutheran Church: At our most recent council meeting, the decision was made in light of the lockdown extension that we would offer just the 10 AM Blended worship service. We will update information on this as the province-wide plan of opening unfolds by regions and sectors over the next number of weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please check out our church website, or phone the church office or email Pastor Todd [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com]. Thank you and may the Lord richly bless you

COLLECTION NOTE: At this point we are not collecting any materials for the church. This means no milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you.

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at: WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageld=donation-edit&categoryld=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

WITH THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE TO GOD we celebrate the safe arrival of our adopted seminary student, Eduardo Farias, and his lovely wife, Daniela Cruz, into Canada. Eduardo has been an online student studying theology at Concordia (from East Lansing, Michigan) for the past year. During that time the Mary Martha Society/LWML has embraced and supported him with special offerings towards his tuition fees; our hope is to maintain this commitment throughout his seminary days. At present, Eduardo and Daniela are renting a home at: 13 Cartier Dr., Thorold, On, L2V 4H8; phone number: 1-229-300-5097 and completing their 14 day quarantine. Eduardo's email address is: efarias@concordia-seminary.ca

The ladies look forward to meeting them in person and are actively seeking ways to be of service to them during their present situation. While the ladies are bringing home-cooked meals to them, we would like to cordially invite members of the congregation to join us in our efforts to make them feel welcome by giving them a phone call, emailing them, or sending a special card during this time of isolation. It will brighten their day as well as yours. Thank you for your positive response to this request, in the name of Jesus. Mary Silver, Christian Growth

CALL SERVICE 2021: [Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines](#)

Saturday, May 29, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

Service for Certification of pastoral candidates
and announcement of placements for candidates and vicars.

Streamed from the CLTS Chapel.

(you can watch online Saturday, May 29 at 4 pm -- just click "*Call Service 2021*" above and watch)

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

"All God's People Sing" Children's hymnal
CPH 1992 © St Louis, MO

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

MORNING HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy!"

**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!**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**

**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!**

Words: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; Public domain (LSB # 507)

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

There is one body and one Spirit.

There is one hope in God's call to us.

One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

One God and Father of us all.

As Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,

Even so we should walk in the newness of life.

FROM LUTHER'S CATECHISM – Benefits of Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is water used according to God's command and connected with God's promise.

What benefits does Baptism give?

**It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil,
and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this,
as the words and promises of God declare.**

Psalm 51: 1-12 (in unison)

**Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be truly clean.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and take not your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with Your free spirit.**

BAPTISMAL HYMN *"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"*

(2 verses)

**All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious, heavenly band
Of every tribe and nation.
With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear my prayer, O Lord;

As our heart-felt concerns come before Your throne:

Let us pray: Eternal God, Almighty Creator, You have revealed Yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and You live in the perfect and divine unity of love. We praise Your power and majesty. Keep us firm in the faith You have given, defend us from all adversity and bring us at last into Your holy presence, where You dwell in endless joy and love; O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God in three persons, blest forevermore.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 61:1-8*

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading *Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 22-36*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men and women of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say... 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. For

David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'" Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

"To God Be the Glory"

**To God be the glory great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life gate that all may go in**

Chorus:

**Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory great things He has done**

CCLI Song # 23426

Fanny Jane Crosby | William Howard Doane

- © Words: Public Domain
- Music: Public Domain

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com/terms-of-use). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 775293

The Holy Gospel -- St. John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 3rd chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

In Holy Baptism our sins are forgiven, and we are granted a new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So today I ask you anew. Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

I do renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

SERMON SONG –

God So Loved

--Hillsong

**Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more**

**Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever**

**Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world**

**Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love
For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save
Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world**

CCLI Song # 7138599 Andrew Bergthold | Ed Cash | Franni Cash | Martin Cash | Scott Cash

- © 2019 Andrew Bergthold Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
- Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
- Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
- We The Kingdom ASCAP Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
- We The Kingdom Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 775293

PRAYER

Eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: thank you for making yourself known through your mighty works. Continue to show yourself to the world by spreading the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Support all the church's pastors, teachers and lay workers true to the Trinitarian faith; blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Blessed be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever and ever.

For all you have made, for the earth and the sea and all their creatures, and the universe of space and stars, planets and moons, and for the world of spirits and angels, blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Blessed be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever and ever.

For all humankind, made in your image, male and female, adult and child, husband and wife, and people of every tribe, nation, race and language, blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Blessed be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever and ever.

For your gift of community: families and friends, towns and cities, provinces and nations, especially we lift up in prayer...[areas of need,...] that all can flourish and reflect the communal love of the Trinity, blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Blessed be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever and ever.

We pray for your worldwide church – for the on-going the Ministry of Word and Sacrament which we share and proclaim here. Protect those who are persecuted for bearing Jesus' holy name, and bring all people to rejoice in Him as their Saviour. Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Blessed be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Triune God, you continue to give life and love. We pray for all weighed down by heavy loads - all who are in trouble and give fortitude and hope founded on the suffering of Christ. Help us bear each other's burdens in a community of compassion, and meet the needs of those we know personally to be in want especially remembering...(names added here...) blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Blessed be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Holy God, you are our beginning and our end, the ground of our existence and the foundation of our faith. Support us in this faith so that at our life's end we may be raised to eternal life to share with all your saints in glory, for you are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Almighty God, we give thanks that Your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins. We celebrate with joy His resurrection from the dead and ascension into Heaven. We are grateful for the work of Your Holy Spirit in us. Which brought us to faith by Baptism. We know that You are faithful in Your covenant with us. Keep us faithful as well. Show us the way You would have us live/ In Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour we pray. Amen.

CLOSING GREETING & BLESSING

By baptism we have been made members of the church, the Body of Christ.

As we live in Him and with His people, we grow in faith, love and walk in newness of life.

Let us now praise the Lord.

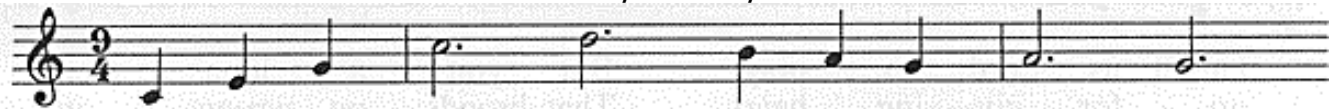
Thanks be to God!

The Almighty and merciful God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you now and always.

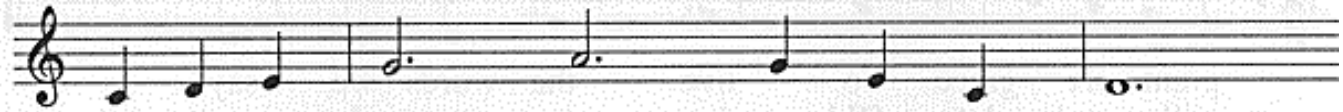
Amen.

LAST HYMN

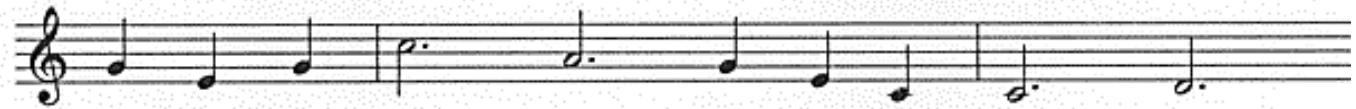
"Go Make Disciples, Baptize & Teach"



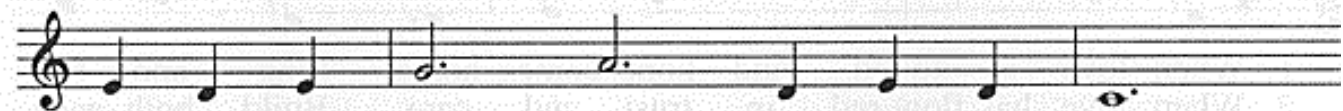
1 Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tize and teach them!



Where -ev-er you go, in all you do;



For I AM with you, I'll nev - er leave you -



Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tize and teach!

**2 Go, be the sal-ty lights in the ci-ty,
For I have set you—high on a hill.
Then all may see you, living out Christ's will
As salt and light for this world to see.**

**3 Baptized and taught, now, fed and for-given,
We are Your pres-ence, showing Your face,
Bless, now this mis-sion, faith-filled by Your grace,
Ma-ny disc-iples, will praise Your name!**

*Text: Handt Hanson (b. 1950) & Delores Dufner (b. 1939); ELW 2006; alt. by TVH 2014
Tune: BUNNESSAN Irish melody (LSB # 789) hymnary.org/hymn/G32011/page/812*

REV. TODD HOFFS
HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY
Scripture: John 3:16ff
“Re-new, Re-do, Re-wind”
May 30, 2021

For God so loved the whole world [cosmos] that He gave His one and only Son that all who believe in Him will not die but have everlasting life.

To be born is to be absolutely dependent.

It's beginning to learn life and language from nothing but cries and gurgles.

To be born is to be profoundly unaware of the world around us.

Being born means our life-story narrative begins fresh.

To be reborn — born from above — involves a kind of dying.

A re-doing a re-winding, a total re-newal from inside out.

A renovation of the heart of who we are and what we hold dear.

A kind of rejection of living any kind of life apart from embracing a death.

A shedding away of any old inklings which influence us And having Jesus be our influence, our identity, our life.

Nicodemus inherited a great tradition, for he was a Pharisee -- he has tested it in the experience of life; he has conformed to its habits of conduct, speech, thought and feeling.

He is a highly educated man with significant status in the Jewish community.

He would've known the Mosaic law intimately, and it would be safe to assume that he lived a life of high ethical and moral standards. How can he break away from all this and begin again?

It is as hard as it would be literally to return to his mother's womb and be reborn.

In the world that Nicodemus lived in, your status was directly related to your birth credentials.

The level of honour that an individual held within the society was determined at birth and it remained with you throughout your life.

Nicodemus has a high level of honor by virtue of his birth.

Nicodemus is a testimony to the fact that even if we, like him, are learned, even if we are listed among the respected leaders, we need to be reborn.

In John's Gospel, Nicodemus is a great figure of hope for us, for fully embedded in his tradition, He *did* reject Jesus, So he is not only able to look up at Jesus upon the cross— it is upon this cross that we shall live, John says —

Later Nicodemus will climb up the cross and carry down Jesus' crucified body.

Will we be as thoroughly reborn as he? Nicodemus comes by night; he is "in the dark."

He, Who is Light and Life, Jesus, Welcomes this man of great stature.

Nicodemus really wants the truth, even as this search exposes what he doesn't know.

Will we allow ourselves to be exposed, or will we prefer to remain safe in the dark?

Nicodemus sees Jesus as someone sent from God.

This man of humble birth, without the credentials for honour within human society, who seemed to possess great wisdom, who was treated with both disdain and respect by some, and who performed signs that are holy wonders. He calls him *Rabbi*, a term of honour.

Great honour, as the distance in their age can't be ignored, And yet, Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things, Begotten of the Father before all worlds. Ushering in a Kingdom not formed in this world, But in the Heavenly realms.

Clearly, the Kingdom of God can only be seen by being reborn.

And Nicodemus, well aware he is "in the dark," issues a flat challenge to Jesus: is this real? Do you really know what you are talking about?

How can we humans even know what Gods Kingdom looks like?

Jesus says He does know. In fact, you not only *see* the Kingdom of God, you *enter* the Kingdom of God. It's no idea or theory. It's not something you merely observe.

You enter by being born of water and spirit. But what *is* spirit?

So many misconceptions about the Spirit.

More popular to follow the spirit, to consider the spirit world, as it is divorced from church or people or in conflict with religious ideals. People see spirit separate from humanity.

We are in *denial* of the truth about the spirit. When the truth is missing, or skewed, or ignored, people seek myths and conspiracy theories to make sense of an ever-changing world.

Spirit is the *meta* physical. Spirit is of God. Spirit affirms that we are not merely machines.

Spirit is the totality in which we live. Spirit is what we seek to describe with art and poetry,

With music and literature, and what we seek in acts of compassion. We are *human beings*;

only God is truly *human*, God is HUMAN ... True God became TRULY HUMAN

We as sinful people are only broken, incomplete, fragmentedly human.

We see glimpses of our humanness, we can only dream of what a more human existence and a more perfect Kingdom would be like, but we have not yet arrived at true humanness.

Only God has. He has made Himself like us in every way yet without sin,

We are made in God's image and likeness — which is to say, we are capable of becoming human. By being born from above, Born of God,

By water and the Spirit. "being born of water in Baptism means we openly become devoted to the mission of repentance which is re-newal, re-doing, re-winding our lives back away from the

brink of harm and into the spirit and light and life of Jesus.

To be born of the spirit is a break, a birth, a new beginning.

This is not from ourselves. We are, if you like, baptised into it, drowned, killed, taken against our will. The spirit, like the wind, blows where he will.... out of our control and comprehension.

The Spirit fills our deflated lungs with holy breath, To take another daily breath

And to breathe in the life that is spirit, That is a transforming way of living.

While it would be easier to find a religious package on Amazon that works for us,

Read a self-help journal Keep faith selfishly to ourselves so we don't have to face any pushback

God calls us away from this and into a life of daily dying and daily rising. The life of renewal Jesus invites Nikodemus and us to live in. Religious leaders of Jesus' day called this life NEGEV.

A wilderness life. Rabbis to this day still teach this NEGEV life. A life trusting in God with both eyes on Him and His promises.

"You have to go through it to find the Promised Land."

This is so often the path for being born from above in the Spirit and we are not as lost as we feel. We are truly welcomed and found by Jesus Through the Spirit In Water and the Word

On a daily path for being re-born from above. Jesus reminds Nicodemus of the old story, since he is a respected teacher who doesn't truly know anything about the truth or the spirit.

How the Israelites were being bitten by serpents, and dying.

Moses placed a serpent, cast in bronze, up on a pole, "and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live." (Numbers 21:1-9)

The Israelites received a symbol of deliverance to remind them of the law's command.

For the one who turned towards it was saved, not by the thing that was beheld, but by The Lord, the mighty saviour of all.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever trusts/believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14)

To look at the serpent on the pole was to return to look upon the thing that was killing you.

It was to look at your death being held over you.

To look up to Jesus was the same: Rome held the cross of death over the people of Jesus' time.

Jesus embraced the cross because that's how His love for us looks.

Our cross here is empty of Jesus' bloody, dying body, because this cross celebrates the resurrection from the dead. For by water and the Spirit Christ crucified now lives in the hearts of everyone who is reborn. Being born of spirit risks all, looking unflinchingly upon our mortality, to recognise our absolute poverty, and to stand alone before Jesus' death, and our own, and trust. Not know it all. Not have all the answers. Not to be puffed up with any pride But simple trusting faith. And we all live, Jesus says. In this re-birth in real life.

Jesus speaks of what he knows, and through the Spirit, of what the church now knows.

There is no proof, no formula. And us? We can run no experiments— life goes on; we do not get to repeat it again at the end, for another try! There is only trust in the inkling which sometimes drives us out into the terrifying wilderness and sorrow of the Negev, only bask in Jesus' Spirit and trust that the way to God's Kingdom is not an easy walk.

For this is how God so loved the world, In giving us Jesus, the son who has, So that all who believe in Him have everlasting life. God loves the world. God does not seek to condemn it.

Our trust is true; looking on him, worshipping him as the way to God— Jesus' life being lifted up means we all get to live. As the Body of Christ in the world, which God so loved, we can trust our lives to God by being compassionate — making ourselves vulnerable to those who have need, and put our lives at risk by loving others—

We are beginning to look upon the Christ lifted who was lifted up.

We are looking at, and joining, a way of living which diminishes us, which makes us vulnerable, which could cost us our lives. Compassion places us in the way of spirit. It means we stand where spirit will wash over us. We do not get to choose what *the* Spirit may give us, or how he will touch us! We only know and believe and trust the Spirit is there,

By water and the Word By being re-born. When hiding seems best When darkness seems like the best cover We are re-claimed, re-made, re-wound, Re-newed. A real re-do. Amen.

Just like the leaves on the shamrock I see, there are three parts to the Holy Trinity! First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son, and the Holy Spirit together as One!



F	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	S	P
A	H	O	L	Y	A	S	O	T	A
T	W	E	D	R	R	N	H	I	R
H	Y	O	Y	E	T	Y	T	R	T
E	G	E	V	N	K	H	I	I	S
R	N	O	I	H	K	L	A	P	W
O	L	A	H	O	R	E	F	S	E
C	S	P	A	T	R	I	C	K	R

Word search Word Bank!

- Father Son Holy
- One Three God
- Clover Saint Patrick
- Mystery Faith Spirit
- Parts