

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**Pentecost 1 B Trinity Sunday**  
**May 30, 2021**

**Bells**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

“My Country, 'Tis of Thee”  
Words: Francis Smith, Music: Thesaurus Musicus,  
Arr. Phillip Keveren

**Call to Worship**

Lucinda Kidder

Leader: Ascribe to God glory and strength. Worship God in holy splendor.

**People: The splendor of our Creator meets us here. We are filled with awe before our God.**

Leader: The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty. God offers strength and peace to all people.

**People: God's voice thunders over the waters. God's strength empowers our response.**

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts. The whole earth is full of God's glory.

**People: The universe is God's dwelling place. God is for us and abides with us.**

**\*Hymn**

Holy, Holy, Holy

**Gathering Prayer**

Lucinda Kidder

**O God, your glory and power are beyond our wildest imagining. In the face of your holiness we are confronted by our sinfulness. Yet in your mercy and grace you offer us restoration and transformation. In Jesus Christ your love is fully known and through his gift of the Spirit we are reborn as your children. And so, we come today seeking to perceive heavenly things even in the midst of our earthly pilgrimage. Let us hear your word, grasp your grace and answer your call to be messengers and servants of your gospel. Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

**Scriptures**

Psalm 29

Lucinda Kidder

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.  
<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.  
<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Isaiah 6:1-8

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**Special Music**

"America the Beautiful"  
Samuel A. Ward, Arr. Anne Britt.

**Sermon**

"A Glimpse of God"

When was the last time you experienced a sense of awe? Did you espy a beautiful sunset, or the smile of a baby? Did you sense the 'holy moment' of God's presence in church or God's power in nature? Have you ever been swept off your feet by an unexpected revelation?

This week, as I read Isaiah, I must admit I was awed and maybe a little jealous. But I also wonder seriously about how you perceive this 'glimpse of God'. Are you hungry to meet God face to face, or terrified by the possibility? Of course, this is not the only time God has revealed his glory to mere mortals. There was Moses at the burning bush, and Israel at Mt Sinai, Elijah at Mt Horeb, Jesus and the disciples on the mount of transfiguration, and Paul on, or off, his high horse. But then there were also quieter gentler glimpses of God, Abraham visited by three angels, Jacob wrestling at the Jabbok, the boy Samuel at night in the temple, Mary preparing for a wedding, and Peter on the rooftop. And in all these stories of 'holy glimpses' God seems intent on two fronts; first, to make himself known, and second, to invite us into his service.

I especially like Isaiah's experience of God because it's no little glimpse of the Holy; it is full-force revelation. It seems Isaiah had come to the Jerusalem temple, a stunning edifice built by Solomon with layers of rich wood, precious stones and metals, and magnificently crafted arts. And as he stood on that threshold God pulled back the curtain to reveal himself, seated high and exalted on the throne of heaven with fiery angels attending to his presence. Isaiah heard these angels calling to one another in great antiphonal song. "*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory*".

That great song simply grabs my attending. You see the angels could have cried out '*Eternal, Eternal, Eternal*', or '*Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*', or '*Love, Love, Love*'. But they didn't. They cried '*Holy!*' because holy says everything about God. Thomas Brooks, in his comments about this passage says, "*God's holiness and his nature are not two things, they are but one. God's holiness is his nature, and God's nature is his holiness. Holiness in angels and saints is but a quality, but in God it is his essence.*" Holy describes all God is. He is wholly majestic, wholly divine, wholly pure. So great was the proclamation of the seraphic angels that when they cried "*holy, holy, holy*" the foundations of the temple shook, off the Richter scale, and the temple filled with smoke, like the tabernacle in the wilderness, when even Moses could not enter it because of the glory of God's presence.

Have you ever wondered how you might respond if you saw God face to face like Isaiah did? Do you think it might be "Oh, hi-ya God, how ya doin'?" No, not likely. When Isaiah stood before God's glory he pretty much responded as all others have, with 'fear and trembling', as the old saying goes. Why? Because before the glory of God we see who we truly are, and it is not pretty. Ever since Adam we know we have 'fallen short of God's glory', which is why we so often hide. But there was no hiding for Isaiah; there was only confession – "*AHHHH! I am doomed! I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the king, the Lord God Almighty!*" We may think it's an odd admission but 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks'. Isaiah recognized not just his words or his actions were sinful, but his whole self and his whole community, his whole nation, was desperately corrupt. We often want to resist seeing ourselves as 'sinful' or 'bad' or even 'flawed', but there is a freedom and a grace in acknowledging our brokenness, because it makes space for restoration, just like the steps of AA, where people come to admit a higher power and their need.

It was when Isaiah cried out 'I'm a goner' that the seraph, God's attendant, attended to Isaiah and flew to him with a living coal, a purifying fire that touched him with the power that 'your guilt is removed and your sin is atoned'. Isaiah is cleansed the hard way, as Malachi once described it like God sitting by a refining's fire, sitting over a slag pot, skimming away the dross; God refines us, purifies us and us makes whole.

Isaiah is sanctified now and is invited to be God's servant. And again, this should be a bit of a shock. We tend to think that only the best can serve God, but God works otherwise. When God spoke (and this is the first time God speaks before Isaiah) he seems to address all of his creation "*whom shall I send and who will go for us?*" He could have said "*And now, Mr. Isaiah, you owe me, big time.*" But God did not. God does not even force the issue; he waits on our response. It seems God's invitation to be a servant and a witness is just that broad;

everyone and everything is welcomed by God to be his ‘voice’ in the world, to share God’s story and even do God’s work. We tend to think that God’s ‘calls’ Isaiah, or God calls a minister, as an overbearing imposition, but its not. God beckons us, each of us, to be his servants, to live as his people, but he never forces us.

Isaiah eagerly volunteered himself as God’s messenger, as God’s prophet, because he now knew the wonder and glory of God, he knew God’s mercy and renewal, and perhaps he knew, as God knows, the world’s need for restoration and hope. That is really the starting place for all our service for God, all our ministry in this world. When we espy a glimpse of God’s majesty and sense our need for grace, then we perceive the world around us in a new light, with the eyes of the One who says “*whom shall I send, who will go for us*”. I hope today you have caught just enough of a glimpse of God, just enough of a whimper in your heart, just enough of a touch of grace that you will answer ‘Here I am, how about me?’” Amen.

**Hymn**                      Be Thou My Vision

### **Joys and Concerns**

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

### **Prayers of the People**

Wondrous God, we come before you today both aware of the proclamation of your holiness, and the hope to experience your glory more fully. We are grateful for the glimmers of your majesty, the touch of your mercy and the invitation to your service. O God, we long to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully, and so we come today seeking your favor and your power.

We pray for your church and for this congregation. May this congregation be a place where all may experience your presence with us. May our worship be genuine and may it bring glory to you. May your words of truth and mercy be proclaimed and received, and may our hearts be attuned to minister according to your will. We pray as well for our world and all its leaders. Grant them an awareness of your call, a heart for your ways of peace, and a compassion for those suffering in our world. We pray for all who need your presence today. Grant your healing to the sick, your comfort to the sorrowful, and your aid to the needy. We especially lift up... and we thank you for your goodness in/to... We also remember this year when Covid touched so many lives. We hold before you all our losses, and rest in the knowledge of your redeeming and renewing work among us. Grant us your grace and be with each of us as we seek to share your goodness with others.

We praise you, O God, for your majesty and power, holiness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Choral Response**

## **Offering**

The glory of God covers the earth and fills us with awe. God's unfailing mercy calls us to respond with praise and to invest ourselves in service. Our giving is an expression of our faith and commitment to the reign of God. Let us dedicate our gifts with joy. Let us pray.

We come before, Holy God, with joyful, thankful hearts. Receive these tokens as an expression of our love for you, and as the dedication of our labor for your purposes. Empower us that we may proclaim your greatness and extend your righteousness throughout the world. Amen.

## **Doxology**

**Hymn**                      Here I Am, Lord

## **Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **Benediction**

Go now into the world

and may the glory of God meet you,  
may the grace of Jesus Christ restore you  
and may the power of the Holy Spirit fill you.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

**Postlude**                      "God Bless Our Native Land"  
   traditional, Arr. Phillip Keveren

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Music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker

## Holy, Holy, Holy

vv. 2,3

1 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y!  
 2 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y!

5 ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a-round the glass - y  
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not  
 all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and

8 thee; ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and  
 sea; cher-u - bim and sera - phim fall - ing down be -  
 see, on - ly thou art ho - ly, there is none be -  
 sea; ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and

*Ancient and Modern: hymns and songs for refreshing worship 276*  
 Text: Reginald Heber (1793-1833)  
 Music (NSCABA 11 12 12 10): John Bachus Dyllos (1820-1876)

276  
 12 might-y! God in three per-sons, bless-èd Trin - i - ty!  
 fore thee, which wert and art and ev - er-more shalt be.  
 side thee per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 might-y! God in three per-sons, bless-èd Trin - i - ty!

## Be Thou My Vision



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er  
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -  
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach



else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought by  
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,  
 • dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,  
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,  
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what-



day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 • thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all.

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.  
 Tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
 Vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

SLANE 10.10.10.10.  
 Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. OPC/URCNA 2016  
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## I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

### Here I Am, Lord

*Leader or All*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

#### Refrain

*All*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.