

## Message from Rev. Jackson for Sunday, June 6, 2021

This Sunday we begin our outdoor worship services. We plan to continue meeting in the church yard until Labor Day Sunday, September 5th. We hope you will be able to join us as we meet outside in God's creation. Please bring your lawn chair. (Don't worry if you forget, we will have folding chairs available!)

Our Gospel lesson is taken from Mark 3:20-35 where Jesus is accused by His family of being "out of his mind." Then the teachers of the law arrived and accused Him of being possessed by the Devil. Jesus used logic to explain that the Devil cannot cast out the Devil. He also explained that His true family was His followers. These were the ones who cared about Him. He also warned against committing the unforgivable sin. He warned them against blaspheming the Holy Spirit by calling the things of God the work of the Devil. The eternal sin is condemning the work of Jesus as the work of Satan. This was precisely what the teachers of the law were doing and hence there was no forgiveness for them.

The Old Testament lesson is from Genesis 3 which is the story of original sin. Adam and Eve are in the Garden of Eden and they have just eaten the forbidden fruit. Adam, Eve and the serpent receive their punishment. God had only one rule for them to keep in the Garden of Paradise and they broke it. Thanks be to Jesus Christ whose sacrifice on the cross freed us from this sin forever.

The final reading from 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:1 contains my favorite scripture passages in the entire Bible. I urge you to read it prior to Sunday. It was given to me in seminary during some hard times and has never failed to lift my spirits. One of the key verses is 2 Corinthians 4:16, "Therefore we do not lose heart." On Sunday we will explain why!

See you in church!

Because He lives,  
Rev. Bob

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### **This week's scripture:**

Old Testament	Genesis 3:8-15
New Testament	2 Corinthians 4:7-5:1
Gospel lesson	Mark 3:20-35

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### **This week's memory verse:**

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. *Romans*  
3:23

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**A Hymn of Inspiration:**  
“Holy, Holy, Holy”

**The Story Behind Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty**

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 to a wealthy family in west England. Reginald attended Oxford and won several awards for poetry before he became rector for his father's church. Reginald became Bishop of Calcutta in 1823 and served his people for three years before dying of stroke. "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," read Reginald Heber's widow. Among her dead husband's papers she found the words of one of the most powerful and beautiful hymns ever written. But years would pass before the lines took their place in worship services around the world.

In 1861, a publisher rediscovered the words. He asked John Bacchus Dykes to furnish him with a tune. It made sense for him to turn to John who had a natural aptitude for music (he graduated with a music master that same year). John had been a church organist since he was ten-years-old and was co-founder and president of the Cambridge University Musical Society. John accepted the words. Within thirty minutes he wrote the tune "Nicea," which carried the praise of the Trinity.

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! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

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 power, 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!

<https://youtu.be/AgHrNNM23p8>

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## Sunday Worship

As Rev. Bob said above, weather permitting, we will begin worshipping outside this Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, we'll worship inside. Please join us! Don't forget your chair! We also invite you to visit our website at <http://www.fcc-worcester.org/may.html> to hear this week's recorded worship service. We hold you all in prayer each week. If you have any prayer requests please let Rev. Bob know at 508-410-1585 or email him at [revrhjackson@gmail.com](mailto:revrhjackson@gmail.com) so they can be shared with our church family on Sunday morning.