



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**We live into Jesus' inclusive call
to love every person, care for creation,
and work for God's justice.**

Celebration of Worship

June 15, 2025, 11:00 AM

Trinity Sunday

Father's Day

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share.*

*Prayer Requests will be collected in baskets during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Preparatory Thoughts

"We can make gods of beings (one's family, nation, company, political party or church) or gods of particular ways of being (power, getting ahead, material gratification or security). Insofar as we give ourselves over to such finite gods, we close ourselves off from God as the mystery and fullness of being."

— Robert Masson, *The Charmed Circle*, 82-83

Quite a few years ago now, Jacques Ellul argued — rightly, it would seem — that the challenge of the church today is not giving people something in which to believe, but in giving people something for which to hope.

Prelude

Song Rising, Spirit Descending

Words of Welcome

Rev. Bruce Boak

Announcements

Sally Allison

Chime

Introit

A Song Must Rise

Paul B. Svenson

Please join in singing the refrain:

**"Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend; Oh a song must rise once again.
Singing out God's praises and glory, the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend."**

*Call to Worship (Psalm 8, interpreted by Nan C. Merrill)

Sally Allison

One: O Love, my Beloved, how powerful is your Name in all the earth!

Many: You, whose glory is sung in heaven by the angels and saints,
Who with the innocence and spontaneity of a child, confound those
who are mighty and proud, You comfort the unloving and fearful.

One: When I look up at the heavens, at the work of Love's creation,
at the infinite variety of your Plan; what is woman that You rejoice in
her, and man that You do delight in him?

Many: You have made us in your image, You fill us with your Love;
You have made us co-creators of the earth! Guardians of the planet!
To care for all your creatures, to tend the land, the sea, and the air
we breathe; all that You have made, You have placed in our hands.

One: O Love, my Beloved, how powerful is your Name in all the earth!

Many: Let us worship God!

*Invocation

We join in proclaiming the faith in which we believe —

That God You are our Creator and we are your own.

We trust in Christ Jesus and gladly embrace him;

We're challenged and blessed by the love he has shown.

We measure one's worth by the stuff one possesses

Your values are hidden by what we profess.

So, speak please again through this morning of worship

And bring us once more to our Lord's holiness. Amen.

*Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICEA

(Verses 1, 2, and 4. Music may be found on page 7.)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Creating God, we are moved to admit we are an in-process people.

We confess that we have both doubts and questions concerning Your
actions and purposes. We are impatient to have answers, to have
knowledge — according to our will. We are not sufficiently trusting
that there is loving wisdom in the timetable of your Spirit's ongoing

revelations of truth. Forgive us the arrogance of such self-deception. Forgive us for allowing our faith to be a closed book rather than a story continuing to be written. Forgive us for being self-satisfied rather than open, and eager to grow and serve according to your will. Amen.

Words of Grace

Romans 5:1

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture

John 16:12-15

Music for Reflection

Restore in Us, O God

Hal H. Hopson

*1. Restore in us, O God, the splendour of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.*

*2. O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.*

*3. Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptise us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.*

*4. Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,
That we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.*

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr.

Collect

Rev. Bruce Boak

God, we have pondered through years of our history
How you can be Father and Spirit and Son.
We've prayed and we've studied and called it a mystery
That you are three persons and yet you are one.
Creating and saving, your church here renewing,
You still are one God working many good ways.
May we humbly thank you for all you are doing!
O God in three persons, we offer you praise.

Scripture

Romans 5:1-5

Sermon

"The Having/Being Reversal"

Rev. Bruce Boak

*Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT

(Verses 1, 3, and 4. Music may be found on page 8.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus (unison)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Stand By Me

Charles Albert Tindley

Congregational Response: "Stand by me."

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus, in this journey with you, we experience more and more of your compassion for the hurting and needy, and more of your passion for justice for the oppressed. We are aware this is the transforming work of your merciful Spirit in our souls. In response, we make an offering of ourselves with these symbolic gifts, praying to become the disciples you need for your ongoing ministry in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray it. Amen.

*Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save
(*Music may be found on page 9.*)

MELITA

*Benediction

Postlude

Prelude in C Major

J.S. Bach

Passing of the Peace

One: During his ministry, Jesus offered his peace to all that he met on his way. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Parting wisdom

"To be, or not to be." – *William Shakespeare*

"To be is to do." – *Socrates*

"To do is to be." – *Jean-Paul Sartre*

"Do be do be do..." – *Frank Sinatra*

"Yabba dabba doo!" – *Fred Flintstone*

1990 March 21, Usenet discussion message, Newsgroup: rec.humor, From: (Scott Yelich) @cs.odu.edu, Subject: Do
(Google Groups Search; Accessed June 8, 2025)

Thank you to...

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Bruce Boak

Liturgist: Sally Allison

Musicians: Alan Jones and Lee Wright

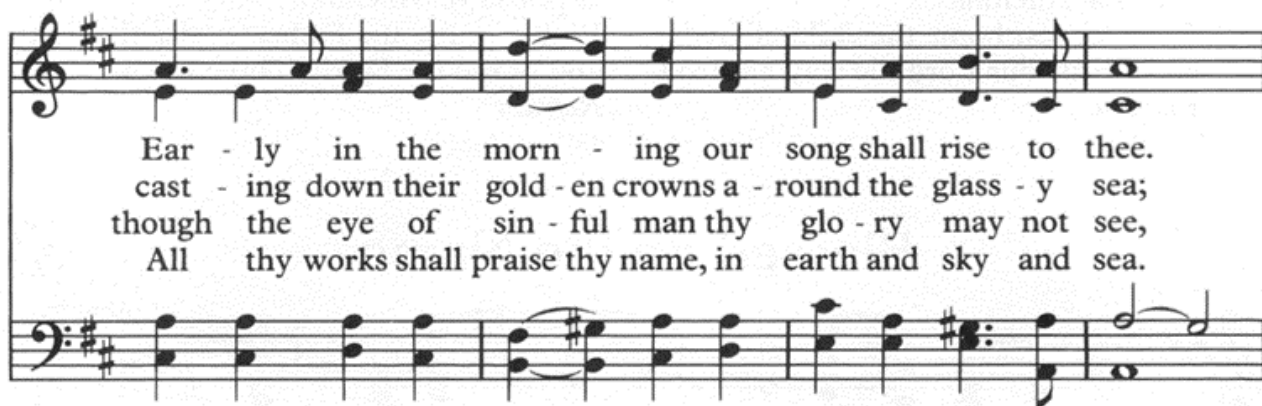
Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty



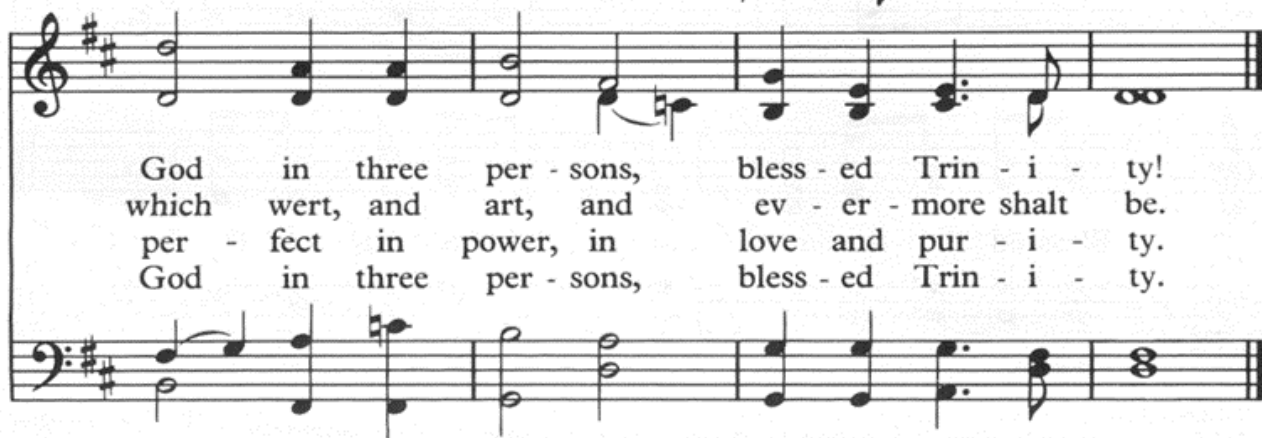
1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

TEXT: Attr. Ignaz Franz, c. 1774; trans. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1858, alt.

MUSIC: *Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch*, c. 1774; harm. Johann Gottfried Schicht, 1819

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

7.8.7.8.7.7

8 Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

The year after this text was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, June 15

Trinity Sunday; Father's Day

10:45AM Nursery

11:00AM Worship: Rev. Bruce Boak

12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 17

10:30AM Psalms+ Study, Zoom

7:00PM Session Meeting

Wednesday, June 18

4:30PM Sunday Forum Mtg, Zoom

Thursday June, 19

Juneteenth: Building closed

10:00AM Personnel Meeting, Zoom

Friday, June 20

Summer Begins

Sunday, June 22

Jazz Sunday; Strawberry Festival

10:00AM Musicians Warm-up

10:45AM **No Nursery this week**

11:00AM Worship:
Rev. Val Fowler

12:00PM Strawberry Festival
in Sanctuary

7:00 PM Sophia Circle, Zoom

Jazz Worship

At Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, June 22, 11:00AM

All are welcome!

We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care is available for children up to 2nd grade either in the library or C-23 upstairs. Check with the receptionist. **Nursery care will not be available Sunday, June 22.**

Sunday School is on summer recess.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online, you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

* **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person(s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
Kristie Jones, Office Administrator
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes,
Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler,
Moderator
Nancy Brown
John DeHority

Lea Kone
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Cindy Hamilton

Jacqueline Hancock
Elizabeth Katz
Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales

Becky Parks
Susan Richane
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

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