



Bible Readings for

June 7, 2020 Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Message from Ray

There is a deep Christian tradition that refuses to attempt to speak of God directly, knowing not just the futility of doing so, but the inherent danger of thinking we have somehow managed to grasp the reality of the eternal in our mere human utterances. Jews would never utter the sacred name – no-one could gaze upon God and live Moses could only see the back - When we stand in this tradition we are left with the disconcerting truth that on Trinity Sunday whatever we say about God we are wrong. And yet, yet.... neither can we accept that we are simply reduced to silence upon this most important of topics for us. We find we must speak for God has spoken to us in the Word who took flesh and dwelt among us.



You may have seen that the Victorian Government has raised the restrictions on gatherings for worship services from a maximum of 10 people to a maximum of 20 people (plus a reasonable number of extras to organise and lead the service.) Physical distancing and hygiene protocols are still in place. But this does mean that on this coming Sunday, June 7, we are able to have one service of 20 people rather than two services of 10 people.

More than ever we will have to monitor numbers

Contact Ray by email, text or phone call to let him know if you are planning on attending the 9.30am service. Please note this is the only service for those who used to attend the 10.00am service. Ray would be keen to hear also from anyone who may be able to assist with wiping down surfaces at the conclusion of the service.

Sunday is Trinity Sunday and we will also light the new Christ candle for the first time, read from the new lectern bible for the first time and share in Holy Communion.

Contact Penaia for information on the 11.30 am worship group



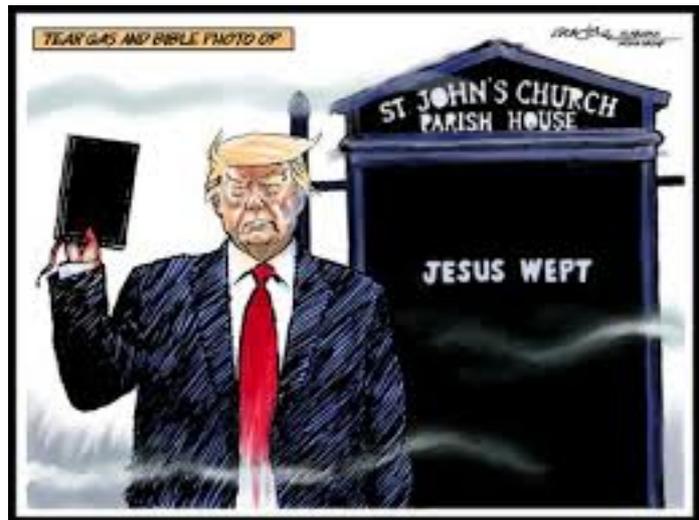
Do Yourself a Favour

Today, in the absence of any submitted recommendations for songs, films, books, recipes etc, we have another of my favourites songs - the achingly beautiful “Vincent” by Don Maclean.

McLean told The Daily Telegraph February 24, 2010 the story of this song: "In the autumn of 1970 I had a job singing in the school system, playing my guitar in classrooms. I was sitting on the veranda one morning, reading a biography of Van Gogh, and suddenly I knew I had to write a song arguing that he wasn't crazy. He had an illness and so did his brother Theo. This makes it different, in my mind, to the garden variety of 'crazy' – because he was rejected by a woman [as was commonly thought]. So I sat down with a print of Starry Night and wrote the lyrics out on a paper bag."

McLean was going through a dark period when he wrote this song. He explained to The Daily Telegraph: "I was in a bad marriage that was torturing me. I was tortured. I wasn't as badly off as Vincent was, but I wasn't thrilled, let's put it that way." cont page 3

Our Favourite Cartoon of the Week



Bumper June Crosslight available

The June edition of the Uniting Church magazine, Crosslight, is now available in an easy-to-access, reader-friendly digital “flipbook”. The supersized 55-page special edition features an array of engaging stories and thought-provoking opinion pieces that will either inspire you, give you reason to reflect or encourage you to take action.

Highlights include: an overview of how COVID-19 has affected the church and what measures it has taken to respond, and Synod Ethics Committee considers what the world may look like when we fully emerge from lockdown. Plus there’s a feature on the spirituality of running. Be warned: you may end up two feet from God!

Click on the link below to go to the June edition of Crosslight [crosslight](#)

CROSSLIGHT

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Do Yourself a Favour (cont from page 2)

This song, and Van Gogh's painting, reflect what it's like to be misunderstood. Van Gogh painted "Starry Night" after committing himself to an asylum in 1889. He wrote that night was "more richly colored than the day," but he couldn't go outside to see the stars when he was committed, so he painted the night sky from memory.

This is a great version of the song on Youtube as it has both the lyrics and some wonderful paintings by Vincent to look at as you listen to the song

[vincent](#) by Don Maclean



WCC Assembly postponed till 2022

The World Council of Churches' 11th Assembly, due to take place in Karlsruhe, Germany in September 2021, has been postponed due to uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly has asked us to join in prayer for

The family and friends of George Floyd and all those who seek justice in his name.

Our Church partners and other faith organisations around the world actively involved in confronting racism and prejudice.

Australians who are struggling as we enter our first recession in 29 years

Don't be shy about submitting any articles to The Harvest. We are very happy to receive any contributions - news, reviews, pictures, recipes, reflections on bible passages, baby photos - anything!

Message from Ray (cont from page 1)

Go therefore and baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and make disciples of the nations". And so we find ourselves in the paradox - "God is that which we can never speak of, yet God is that which we can never cease speaking of".

So today we find ourselves trying to give expression to the particular Christian revelation of the Trinity. Of the Three in One. Now much of the talk this Sunday will focus upon the three different expressions, or revelations, or persons within the Godhead, traditionally known as Father Son and Holy Spirit. And of course this is precisely the point of departure, theologically, with the other two great monotheistic religions, Judaism and Islam.

"It is only through the recognition of the triune God that Christian dialogue with Jews and Muslim's becomes interesting and dialogue-worthy". Jurgen Moltmann

Many Trinity Sunday sermons put the emphasis upon the three, and I have certainly done that many time, but I am also very open to the notion that on Trinity Sunday the emphasis is upon the one. That is, despite the many and varied ways humans experience God, God is not many but one.

And what does this say about the way we organise our lives, our families, our relationships, our work places, our schools, our governments?

What is captured is the dynamic nature of God – God is found in relationship, God is passionate, God comes to us, God loves and suffers and that suffering is redemptive for us. And as Dietrich Bonhoeffer when arrested and sentenced to prison said as he first walked into his prison cell, "Only a God who suffers can help me now".

In the heart of God is the suffering of the Father who's only begotten Son is killed by sinful humanity. The transforming power of God is not seen in the ruling monarch imagery, but in the suffering broken heartedness of the triune God, as the Son lays down his life to the eternal pain of the Father. All that can only be expressed in the language of vibrant relationships.

As the Spirit indwells us, and reverberates through the church this is to become our life and witness, the worship of the triune God becomes our delight.

World Environment Day Resources

World Environment Day is a United Nations event that reminds us to take action to conserve and protect our natural environment.

World Environment Day celebrates its 20th anniversary on 5th of June 2020.

Churches often celebrate World Environment Day on one of the closest Sundays, for example, Sunday 7th of June 2020.

This year, Uniting Earth is encouraging churches to remember the devastating bushfires earlier this year, to pray for those impacted by the fires and to take action climate change, the impacts of which made these fires so unprecedented.

To help you celebrate in worship, here are some resources <https://www.unitingearth.org.au/worship/>