



**First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia**

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**Rev. Joseph Svancara, Pastor**

**Sunday Worship Service**

**May 31, 2026**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**Announcements & Prayer Concerns**

Bible Study will be this Wednesday (June 3) at 10am.

AA will meet this Wednesday (June 3) at 8pm.

Our Sunday Morning Study Group will be meeting next Sunday (June 7) at 9:15am.

Next Sunday (June 7) is our “First Celebration” Sunday with Holy Communion in worship followed by a church brunch. All are welcome!

Our Organist is taking requests for music during worship! If you have a favorite hymn, song, or arrangement you would like her to use in worship please let her know!

**Opening Prayer**

LORD, our Creator, we welcome your mission of making disciples from all nations and groups in this world. Help us to live not in spreading an idea but introducing a renewed relationship and possibility to all who need it. **Amen.**

**Prelude Sweet, Sweet Spirit Arr. F Bock**

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 8)**

O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!— you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them. You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet: all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

**O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**\*Hymn #138    *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!***

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 of sinfulness 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!

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Even when we strive to bestow the living LORD on all we complicate things with our own beliefs and ideas:

**LORD, our Creator, you have called your people to live and make you known in every action we do. But sometimes we miss that goal, turning you into an idea or story to convince others of and justify who we are. Help us to see you as you are, how you choose to work among us, that we might show with our actions and posture what we value the most. Amen.**

**\*Silent Confessions and Prayers**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Even when our ideas get in the way the LORD is the one who clears the road and makes all things straight again.

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit show what is possible when we accept, step into, and value relationship before anything else.**

**\*Hymn #579    *Gloria Patri***

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **Reading of the Scriptures**

*All Scripture lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary. Prescribed lessons are underlined, with pastoral inserts to preserve the integrity of the passage.*

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

1 <sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. <sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. <sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. <sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two

great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. <sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. <sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. 2 <sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

#### 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

13 <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. <sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

#### Matthew 28:16-20

28 <sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to

me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Sermon *Trinity Sunday***

We reach a point in the Christian year where we are being shown an essential teaching which describes the LORD and the purpose of our lives. In Advent and Christmas we see the saving promises of the LORD through the earthly history of his people, in Lent and Easter are given the mystery of faith in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, and in Pentecost how the Holy Spirit works to restore and unite us in a common and transforming work in the world. All of this comes together as we reflect on the Trinity; one God in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a term that is seen nowhere within the Bible literally, but is reflected in the person of the LORD in how the divine has acted within the sacred story. It is not just an idea, concept, tale, musing, or some problem and puzzle to figure out. We do not get a prize or become better just because we “solve” the mystery. Rather, the Trinity is how the LORD demonstrates and reflects life to us so we might emulate. In our creation we were only just made a little less than divine, but are crowned with honor only because of our capacity to be in union with our creator.

Genesis 1 is the creation story that all people, in the Church and out, are familiar with.

That at the beginning there was nothing, chaos, matter and energy without form or purpose. Then the LORD gave it purpose, crafted it to suit a need, and set all things in order to tame chaos so something special might arise. It does not reflect literal history as if anyone was there to write down everything as it happened, but it tells us that all life came from a single origin and we are connected through that origin whether we like it or not. All of humanity was purposefully sculpted and designated to take a place in creation as the tenders of the LORD’s garden, to inherit a sacred trust thus to actively demonstrate our relationship to the creator by how we treat the creation. And that is not just limited to how we treat the environment, address climate change, protect the trees and water, but also how we treat and work with each other. Because if we cannot love and care for one another how can we ever love and respect the LORD?

That is the hope and direction St. Paul was giving to the church in Corinth in 2 Corinthians 13, the end of his letter talking about the ideal of members agreeing with each other and living in peace. Quite possibly a tall order just because of how St. Paul directed the church before in some of its waywardness, and in 2 Corinthians dealing with how the people treated his apostle status and authority to teach. If there was anything he wanted was not to be respected like some leader or king over them, but that they would internalize the truth of Jesus Christ and be able to live in cooperation and purpose. To live as they, and all peoples, were created to be.

And that is the direction of Jesus himself when he gives the final instruction in Matthew 28, going out and making disciples of all peoples of the world. Not by force, conquest, subjugation, destruction, or any other human means of order. But by blessing, teaching, and welcoming them into the renewed life prepared for all to experience. And it is that little word used by Jesus: “in”, which in the Greek manuscripts translate literally as “into”. We are not forcing an idea upon them but bringing them into a union and relationship with the LORD through his people. The people of the LORD, the renewed and expanded Israel, represent the culmination of all the divine has done in the world. And our duty is to care for it, nurture it, tend it, and make it accessible for all so they might see the truth and power behind us.

The Trinity is a mystery that will never be fully solved or explained perfectly in this life but can be demonstrated because we are the offspring of divine power. We have been perfectly and respectfully made with a purpose and not by accident or by forces of history. No matter the times and conditions we find ourselves in the directive of the divine overwrites all of that. We are not to fear that we cannot do anything for the LORD because some earthly power makes things difficult. That is no obstacle! Rather it can be a clarification of what those wonderful works can be, who they can reach, and who is placed in our path to speak truth and life into. The LORD is creator of all things, Jesus the clarifier and demonstrator of our purpose, and the Spirit blows into our path what will make us better and allow us to accept reality for what it is that we might love and enjoy like never before!

### **Prayers of the People**

*Let us remember in prayer:*

*Mary Ellen Beans, Fritz Chambers, Michelle Chamberlain, Mary Jane Dougherty, Don Eberheart Jr., Allison Folly, Kay Frantz, Jamie Frank, Judy Hass, Alice & Errol Jacobs, Victoria Kasten, Amber Loftis, Will Long, Tom Netting, Ruth Patrick, Bob Pierre, Mark Preusser, Stefani Seth, Dane & Cindy Smith, Derrick & Mandy Smith, Dean & Heidi Unzicker, Simone Villarruel, Holly Waldenmyer, The Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County & The Homeless of Tuscarawas County.*

LORD, our Creator, we come before you as a people in respect and awe of you and who you are. You are not a God relegated to the history books, to fictional tales, philosophical concepts, or the imaginings of others. You stand as the Lord of all creation, the governor of all things seen and unseen, known, unknown, and yet to be discovered. You remind us time and again how you chose to do things, exist in this world, in our lives, and bring about for a grand and ultimate purpose. But you also reflect life to us, you demonstrate unity and cooperation in the best way possible, and open the realm of the divine that we might step in and experience. That we might be changed and poised to take a stand in all areas of life for you, not to control or dominate but demonstrate what is real and possible. We thank you for welcoming us

into that mission and goal and bestowing all we need to make it happen no matter where we might be.

We call upon that guidance, that demonstration of holiness and work, for all in our lives who need our help that we might carry out your will for them and us...*Reading of the Prayer List*...LORD, in your loving mercy, hear our prayers.

*Moment of Silence*

For all requests and needs not spoken we know they are heard and you continue to work for everything we do not know yet. All so your prayer, your promises, can be realized and the world led back to you by our proclaiming:

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Offering our Gifts**

The LORD works to bring all people into renewed and loving life, and our gifts assist in bringing that task to reality.

**Offertory**    *All Things Bright and Beautiful*    **Arr. Rodger Summers**

**\*Hymn #592    Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

LORD, our Creator, we thank you that you have brought us into your Church, into your presence, and shown us what we can do in cooperation with you. May these gifts demonstrate what it means to give all we have and live together so all might see who you truly are. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn #139    Come, Thou Almighty King**

Come, Thou almighty King,  
Help us Thy Name to sing,  
Help us to praise:  
Father all glorious,  
O'er all victorious,

Come, and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word,  
Gird on Thy mighty sword,  
Our prayer attend:  
Come, and Thy people bless,  
And give Thy Word success;  
Spirit of holiness,  
On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour:  
Thou Who almighty art,  
Now rule in every heart,  
And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,  
The highest praises be,  
Hence evermore!  
Thy sovereign majesty  
May we in glory see,  
And to eternity  
Love and adore.

**\*Benediction**

Hear now, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; you will love your neighbor as yourself.

With the gospel of Jesus Christ guiding you, go into the world to live this sole purpose.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Postlude    *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*    Arr. Lloyd Larson**

Be blessed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever you may go!

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*All worship messages, devotions, and church news are available on the First Presbyterian Church website ([www.newphilapc.org](http://www.newphilapc.org)).*