



***First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia***

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***Rev. Joseph Svancara, Pastor***

***Sunday Worship Service  
June 15, 2025***

\*All who are able, please stand.

**Announcements & Prayer Concerns**

Session will meet this Monday (June 16) at 7pm.

Bible Study will be this Wednesday (June 18) at 10am.

AA will meet this Wednesday (June 18) at 8pm.

The Tables of Eight dinner group will be meeting this Saturday (June 21) at 6pm. The cost is \$10 per person and RSVP is required either to the church office or to Carolyn Berry.

Our Sunday Morning Study Group will meet on Sunday (June 22) at 9:15am. We will be having a special class commemorating the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. See Rev. Joe if you wish to join!

Next Sunday (June 22) we will be holding a special 'Nicene Sunday' worship service to commemorate the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed, and of Christian doctrine. Invite anyone who is interested in learning the importance of the creeds of our faith!

During June we will be taking up a special collection for the PCUSA's Pentecost Offering- to benefit their ministries to children and young adults. A portion of this offering will be retained to our church and donated to Noah's Hope, and matched by our mission budget. Information and donation envelopes are available on the back mission table.

**Opening Prayer**

LORD, our Father, you exist and live in ways beyond our imagination and understanding, but which enables us to escape the old ways of this world. Help us to be guided into your right way, and trust that as you live we also will live beyond what the world can trick us into. **Amen.**

**Prelude    *Holy, God We Praise Your Name*    arr. Held**

**\*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 #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.

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

The name of the LORD is mighty and majestic, filling the earth with goodness and truth. But so often we fear what the world presses on us, and lose heart to keep those better ways:

**LORD, our Father, you have come into the world, and into our lives, to demonstrate a way and life so mighty and filled to meet all of our needs. But we become distracted with the absurdities of others and the way they demand things. Help us to trust in your guiding message, and the identity you have blessed us with to resist and stand for all that is holy and helpful. Amen.**

### **\*Silent Confessions and Prayers**

#### **\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Through faith alone, by the work of Christ alone, we have obtained access to the once hidden divine places and know peace and truth as it was always meant to be.

**The world will always worship and desire those lesser things, but the triune LORD keeps us in his love- if we are willing to experience and learn.**

#### **\*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:

#### Proverbs 8:1-36

**8** <sup>1</sup> Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: <sup>4</sup> “To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. <sup>5</sup> O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. <sup>6</sup> Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; <sup>7</sup> for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. <sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. <sup>9</sup> They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. <sup>10</sup> Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; <sup>11</sup> for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. <sup>12</sup> I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion. <sup>13</sup> The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. <sup>14</sup> I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength. <sup>15</sup> By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; <sup>16</sup> by me rulers rule, and nobles, all who govern rightly. <sup>17</sup> I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. <sup>18</sup> Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity. <sup>19</sup> My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. <sup>20</sup> I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, <sup>21</sup> endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries. <sup>22</sup> The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. <sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. <sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil. <sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. <sup>32</sup> And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup> Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. <sup>34</sup> Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. <sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor

from the Lord; <sup>36</sup> but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate me love death.”

#### Romans 5:1-11

**5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

#### John 15:18-16:15

**15** <sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’ <sup>26</sup> When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. **16** <sup>1</sup> I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. <sup>12</sup> I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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

### **Sermon    *Trinity Sunday***

At this point in the Christian year we take the opportunity to reflect on the nature and being of the LORD we worship. The Almighty Father whose promises in history, and with the Hebrew people, remind creation of its purpose and reason of existence. The gracious Son, Jesus Christ, who demonstrates the reality of the promises of the LORD in our lives. And the ever-present Holy Spirit who spurs us onward to carry those promises and realities to others around us. This is the triune God whom we worship and devote ourselves too and is a mystery of faith meant to always keep us humble.

Many have tried to articulate and explain the mystery of the Trinity by using various examples and metaphors to have it make sense to the human mind. Like the Trinity is similar to how water can exist as ice, vapor, and liquid while still being the same substance. Or like how the shamrock can have three leaves but is one plant. Good intentions have inspired Christians to articulate this belief so others can make sense of it, but is that what the Church should be doing? Is the LORD just a complex mathematical problem or riddle to 'figure out'? Is solving such a problem going to make us better at being loving, kind, and truthful to the complex situations and people in the world? Or is the Trinity there to demonstrate something else entirely for his people to pursue?

In Proverbs 8:1-36, we are given an example of what the LORD's good gifts are supposed to inspire with his people. Proverbs 8 uses metaphor and creative imagery to describe the concept of 'wisdom', which many assumed was just right knowledge of the divine. When Proverbs was written, the idea of monotheism was not as solid as we assume it to be today. There was the idea that there was a supreme chieftain god, and many lesser gods who served and catered to his whims in the world. These lesser gods were still powerful, still needed appeasement, but served also as messengers to the 'king of kings'. In this worldview, wisdom was seen as a goddess who served as advisor and consort to the chieftain god. She whispered advice into his ear which enabled the world to be shaped and ordered according to a certain will. But the teacher writing the Proverbs made it clear that wisdom was not a goddess, not a force or being independent of the LORD, but was created and represents the first order of creation.

Wisdom helps us to understand what it is that the LORD cherishes and prizes before anything else, and what he wishes to share with those yearning. Wisdom is a class of eternal knowledge which has existed since the beginning, and aids humans in going after what is right. It was not to be hoarded greedily or placed behind a curtain so only a few chosen can access. It is a force which confronts us in our daily lives, makes us look up, and consider what the LORD would want to see happen in that given moment. It was there to correct the people of the LORD, then and now, about what is real and worthy.

Jesus articulates that wisdom to the disciples in John 15:18-16:15 about what they could expect from pursuing it. Jesus reminds them that in what they are going after the world will hate them. Not because they have an idea or belief others do not, but because they are in relationship with one whom the world rejects. The world does not hate Christians, or hate the Church, but hate the one whom we represent. They hate the one who knows humanity for what it is, knows what it can do, and what must happen to get back into the right way- and it is easier to reject the truth teller than to change oneself. But that hatred, that scorn, that criticism is also a sign about the effects of the one we are listening too. Our witness, our wisdom, should be challenging and confrontational to those who hear and see it. The Church is there to remind all people in all situations, "Is this the best way to go?" The Spirit does not seek to dominate, control, or overpower, but remind what is truly right and what is accessible to being right again. That is why Jesus promises, "All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." All that Jesus represents can become what we represent as well, if we are willing to embrace what the Spirit wishes to show us.

St. Paul builds upon this within Romans 5:1-11. Amid addressing the Roman church about what makes a fellowship, what is the plan of the LORD, and how to live into that plan that faith is the only thing which aids in that pursuit. It is not knowledge, ability, talent, resource, or anything superficial like that. Jesus has come to pour wisdom and reality into our hearts, to help us experience through our sufferings what is most important, to build us into people able to articulate that best way for others. The LORD does not have us suffer needlessly and does not challenge us just to demean our efforts. But to make us realize the power and authority which exists in all situations, positive and negative, which can help us learn what is best. That only comes when we open ourselves to the divine, see it as the best representation of what life can be, and then seek to implement it into all that we do. It is seeing the divine as something we are given access to step into and become apart of, a source of perfect unity and relationship, and the only way by which the promises of the LORD since ancient times can manifest.

Seen in this way, the Trinity is not an idea or concept. It is an experience to be lived, an invitation to be reciprocated, and a means we can experience the world differently than before. No longer do we have to see the divine as just another manifestation of

humanity which needs to be placated and bargained with, but a reality which makes us grow and see everything with new eyes. The only thing stopping some from experiencing its fulness is a willingness to accept the authority, direction, and charge had over our lives as a result. A willingness to admit our short sightedness, reject the false and half-promises of others, and embrace something totally new which cannot be counterfeited. Our celebration of the Trinity is the celebration of the newness of the LORD washing over our lives, the divine identity being pressed over our own, and the assurance that the divine will have its way over everything. So no matter what we do or where we go we can see opportunity for mission and renewal, and what the LORD desires first above anything else.

### **Prayers of the People**

*Let us remember in prayer:*

*Dominic Aquino, Tom & Amy Aquino, Mary Ellen Beans, Terry Carpenter, Fritz Chambers, Michelle Chamberlain, Mary Jane Dougherty, Don Eberheart Jr., Allison Folly, Kay France, Jamie Frank, Bill & Cheryl Graham, Judy Hass, Alice & Errol Jacobs, Barry Jacobs, Victoria Kasten, Amber Loftis, David Mackey, Breanne Mathias, Peg McIntire, Will Long, Tom Netting, Ruth Patrick, Bob Pierre, Carol Phillips, Mark Preusser, Stefani Seth, Josh Shaeffer, Marlene Singhaus, Cindy Smith, Derrick & Mandy Smith, Janis Stover, Dean & Heidi Unzicker, Simone Villarruel, The Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County & The Homeless of Tuscarawas County.*

LORD, our Father, your triune form and identity is what sets you apart and makes you mightier than anything else in the world. Human religions, beliefs, and faiths are created to provide easy explanation and predictable living. But your presence is not easy, not predictable, is challenging, and makes us think and yearn for the good things you show. We are not burdened with having to get your attention or pull you down to us, but blessed that you reveal and lift us up into the only perfect relationship that ever exists and can be emulated by willing effort. You prize harmony and cooperation among your people, among your creation, and have given an identity to live into and which allows us to grow. But often we try to 'dumb down' that identity and purpose, cheapen that life by conforming it to our understanding, and misunderstand why you exist and how you act. We thank you for the promises made by your Fatherly attitude in our history, the demonstration of holy mystery by the acts of your Son, and the ongoing growth and learning by your Spirit. By these you pull us away from the false powers in our lives and enable us to recognize the true divine as it appears anywhere and everywhere.

But it is not just for our lives alone, but to be witnesses to help a world let go of old and destructive ways and embrace your truth and grace. In the lives of those we pray for, who are on our minds and hearts, help us to provide proper guidance and example so your truth may abound...*Reading of the Prayer List...*

*Moment of Silence*



We thank you, LORD, that your Spirit speaks and your presence surrounds us every day. Even without our knowing you bring us into better life, better attitude, better action, and better relationships so peace and healing may take root and abound. May the prayer you gift be our guide, our reminder, of what you prize and make available for our work:

### **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**

In honor of the triune LORD who keeps his people in true mission, let us give to further those purposes and live as we are meant too!

**Offertory    *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*    arr. Young**

### **\*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 Father, we thank you that your holy wisdom reminds your people what we have been set up to accomplish. By what we offer today may your understanding become the world's understanding, that all may know peace as you are peace. **Amen.**

### **\*Hymn #132    *Come, Great God of All the Ages***

Come, great God of all the ages,  
Make Your earthly mission known;  
Speak through every deed and person,  
Let Your way and will be shown.  
Guide the church to true commitment,  
Give direction now, we ask;  
Fit us for the work of building,  
Dedicate us to the task.

Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,  
Sure foundation, cornerstone,  
Help us form the church eternal,

May Your vision be our own.  
Send a message to each follower,  
Lead all people to Your way;  
Urge us to strong faith and action  
As we build the church today.

Come, great Spirit, in and with us,  
Tune our ears to hear Your call;  
Through the moving of Your presence,  
Let redeeming love recall  
Ministry in dedication,  
Love embodied in our deeds;  
Challenge us to do Your bidding,  
See Your purpose, fill all needs.

Come, O come, in celebration,  
Household of the one true God,  
In commitment and rejoicing  
Let us go where Christ has trod;  
As we act in faith and reverence,  
Let us, Lord, the future see;  
Place us in the church triumphant,  
Now and for eternity.

**\*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    *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story*    arr. Young**

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)).*