



George Floyd Memorial at Cup Foods, Minneapolis, MN. Photo by [Munshots @ unsplash.com](https://www.unsplash.com)

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH** OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, pastor
and Matthew Lawrenz, musician

www.uccmke.org

This week we begin the season after Pentecost, also known as “ordinary time,” in the Church. Amid a global pandemic with 40+ million people unemployed and nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd, our times are anything but ordinary. This week we begin our June sermon series: UNordinary times. This Sunday is known as Trinity Sunday. The Trinity teaches us about the nature of our triune God. God is three-in-one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although such a Sunday might seem too academic or philosophical, I believe it grounds us for the world we find ourselves living in today – and how we are called to respond as the Church. Today we hear from Genesis 1, which tells us about the shalom of God’s created order. God made humankind in God’s image. In Matthew’s Gospel we hear the command of Jesus to his disciples to make disciples of all peoples. On this ordinary time Sunday in unordinary times – we also lift our extraordinary graduates.

Words of Welcome

A Song for Today

Where Charity and Love Are Found

arr. Larry Visser
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz

Opening Litany

One: May we remember

All: That God created.

One: May we remember

All: That God liberated.

One: May we remember

All: That God fed.

One: May we remember

**All: That God is *still* creating,
 God is *still* liberating,
 And God is *still* feeding us.**

One: Let this be our story.

All: Let this be where we begin.

One: Let us worship holy God.

Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



“Trinity” by Kelly Latimore, 2016.

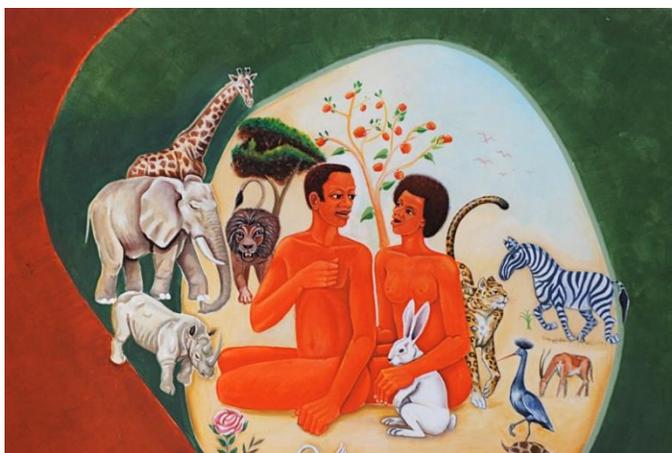
A Time for the Child in Us

Trinity Sunday

Spark Family Sunday School

Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-2:1-4a



“Adam and Eve in the Garden” in the Songea Cathedral, Tanzania.

Genesis is a book about beginnings. It moves from the beginning of the world to the ordering of families, nations, and eventually the birthing of the fathers and mothers of ancient Israel. In this reading, we hear one of two creation stories from Genesis. Genesis 1 describes God’s created *shalom* – the order and equilibrium of the world. All things come from God. Humankind is made in the image of God, sometimes referred to as the *imago dei*. God is referred to in the plural – as “ours,” which speaks to the diversity of human bodies made in God’s image!

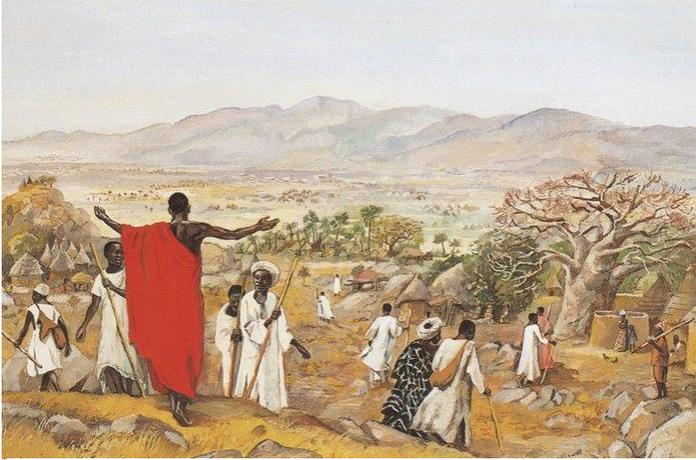
Poetry Prayer

Holy God,
 We are deeply disturbed, shocked and grieved.
 We struggle with the world that just seems to get worse and worse and worse.
 But we come to You in prayer, knowing You are with us, as we
 Pray for our city.
 Pray for the child who was maced.
 Pray for the grieving and the broken-hearted.
 Pray for justice.
 Pray for Black Lives to really matter.
 Pray for no more death.
 Pray that we listen.
 Pray that we learn.
 Come, Holy Spirit, Come.
 Set our hearts on fire.
 Purify us, cleanse us from sin, and restore us on the path of justice, mercy, love, and peace.
 For You are our God.
 You made us in Your image.
 You sent Your son Jesus to us so that we might have life, now and always.
 You sent Your Spirit to be with us forever, so that we might build Your reign on earth as it is in
 heaven, that we might fulfill the vision when all people of every nation and tribe and language come
 together, and know You are God, and know Your love and peace.
 We pray for that day, and we pray for our hearts to turn to You, to do justice, to love mercy, and to
 go humbly in Your ways.
 Come, Holy Spirit, Come.
 Amen.

New Testament

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of Jesus the Messiah whose lineage and miraculous birth are the sign that “God is with us.” In this reading, Matthew depicts the resurrected Jesus’ commissioning of the disciples for mission. He sends them forward to make disciples of *all* peoples. This scripture is part of our baptismal vows and pledges to one another. In his commissioning of the disciples, Jesus speaks of the triune nature of God – and promises his community that he will be with them until the end of the age.

[Matthew 28: 16-20](#)



“The Mission to the World” by Jesus Mafa, Cameroon, 1973.

Homily

UNordinary Times: God’s Image and Mission

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Lord, Revive Us

**arr. Molly Pufall-Brown
 soloist, Molly Pufall-Brown**

Prayers of the People

And when our time and place tries to teach us
that a man's worth is his income,
that men cannot display emotion,
and that being sensitive is feminine,
Oh God, hear our prayer:
Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our time and place teaches us
that a woman's beauty is more valuable than her soul,
that a woman's body is property,
and that a woman's "no" is optional –
Oh God, hear our prayer:
Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our time and place teaches
that brown bodies and black bodies
are less valuable than white bodies,
give us the strength to speak out
and to expect more from our history teachers,
our churches, our law enforcement, and our politicians.
Oh God, hear our prayer:
Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our time and place tries to ignore
the impacts of our consumer practices,
may we remember the hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes of the last year –
may we remember the consequences of global warming.
Oh God, hear our prayer:
Restore all of who we are to you.

And when our church places shame,
instead of caring for everyone,
when we idolize tradition instead of making room for the Spirit to move,
and when we forget your call to love our neighbors as ourselves,
Oh God, hear our prayer:
Restore all of who we are to you.

Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

The Lord's Prayer

Giving Thanks for Our Grads and Commissioning Them

Passing the Peace

One: Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by

taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Song of Response

When in the Hour of Utmost Need

**arr. J.S. Bach
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz**

Sending

“Remember, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Even during a pandemic.

Even in the amid a Depression.

Even as fires burn in the streets and in human hearts.

Even as necks are knelt upon.

Even in protests.

Christ is with us, now and always.

The Holy Spirit is among us, now and always.

God is speaking something new into existence, now, and always.

Amen.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
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You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ
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