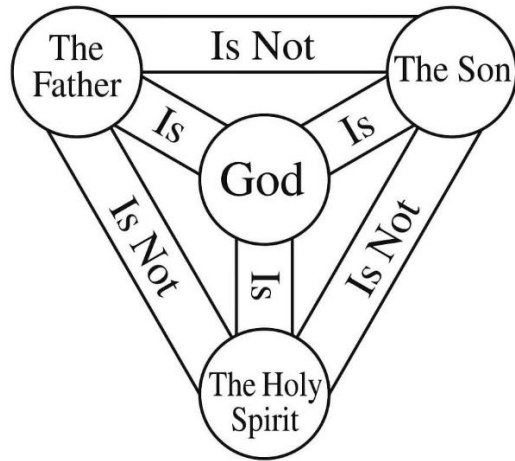


**SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025**  
**TRINITY SUNDAY**  
**JOHN 16:12-15 | “OF TRUTH”**



**ST. JOHN UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
10207 Lincoln Trail Fairview Heights, IL  
Telephone 618-397-6323  
e-mail– [stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)  
Rev. Rosemary Captain  
**Organist – Sharon Banjavcic**  
**Liturgy – Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay**  
**Ushers –**

(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

\*Please stand if comfortably able.  
Respond with words in bold print

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**THE BELL IS RUNG:**

**PRELUDE: “Holy, Holy, Holy” Lani Smith**

**PENNIES FOR MISSION: Emmaus Homes and Ministries**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: (Inspired by Proverbs 8 and Psalms 8)**

One: Holy, Embodied, and Present God, how majestic are your many names in all creation! In you we find direction, inspiration, and encouragement.

**Many: Does not wisdom call and understanding raise her voice?**

One: Creator, Christ, and Compassion, we turn to you in praise, prayer, and penitence to be made new, set free, and empowered.

**Many: Does not love call and understanding raise her voice?**

One: Source, Sustainer, and Spirit, your abiding presence gathers, connects, and strengthens us. You make us a community that participates in your kingdom.

**Many: Does not truth call and understanding raise her voice?**

**\*INVOCATION:**

Author, Word and Translator, we invite you to dwell

with us, to form us, and to challenge us. Send a fresh wind to enliven our hearts, minds, and spirits to your word and your truth. Let our worship of you expand our hopes and our convictions and bring your glory. Make us instruments playing our part of the harmonious song of your love in the world. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 4**

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”**

**\*UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

**God of Grace, Mercy, and Redemption, the brokenness of the world surrounds us. We may benefit from the brokenness. We may participate in the brokenness. We may persist against the brokenness. We may move back and forth between those positions. Wherever we may be situated, we seek your presence with us to shape our response so that we may transition from wounded healers to healed stewards of restoration, liberation, and truth for your glory and love of creation. Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF GRACE:**

Beloved of God, the Holy One has given us the gift and responsibility of stewardship, care, and concern for creation. The Embodied One commanded us to love our

neighbors and our enemies. The Indwelling One journeys with us with wisdom, discernment, and truth to equip us to be what the world needs from us and the Triune God hopes for us. Receive the gift and the Giver for life abundant and flourishing.

**\*GLORIA:**

**Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat twice)  
(end) One God always here. One God always here.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: First Testament**

**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

**WISDOM’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

8 Doesn’t Wisdom cry out

and Understanding shout?

<sup>2</sup> Atop the heights along the path,

at the crossroads she takes her stand.

<sup>3</sup> By the gate before the city,

at the entrances she shouts:

<sup>4</sup> I cry out to you, people;

my voice goes out to all of humanity.

<sup>22</sup> The Lord created me at the beginning of his way,

before his deeds long in the past.

<sup>23</sup> I was formed in ancient times,

at the beginning, before the earth was.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no watery depths, I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs flowing with water.  
<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains were settled,  
before the hills, I was brought forth;  
<sup>26</sup> before God made the earth and the fields  
or the first of the dry land.  
<sup>27</sup> I was there when he established the heavens,  
when he marked out the horizon on the deep sea,  
<sup>28</sup> when he thickened the clouds above,  
when he secured the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he set a limit for the sea,  
so the water couldn't go beyond his command,  
when he marked out the earth's foundations.  
<sup>30</sup> I was beside him as a master of crafts.  
I was having fun,  
smiling before him all the time,  
<sup>31</sup> frolicking with his inhabited earth  
and delighting in the human race.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 8 Page 624**

#### **EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 5:1-5**

#### **THEREFORE, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD**

5 Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> We have access by faith

into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. <sup>3</sup> But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> endurance produces character, and character produces hope. <sup>5</sup> This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

#### **\*GOSPEL LESSON: John 16:12-15**

#### **I STILL HAVE MANY THINGS TO SAY**

<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. <sup>13</sup> However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. <sup>15</sup> Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

#### **MESSAGE: "God is Still Speaking"**

Any woman who has delivered a baby will tell you its painful and terrifying. Labor never happens the way the textbook says. A pregnant woman has been planning for this wonderful event for 9 months. However, when the pain gets intense, she may momentarily forget about the cute little baby she planned on.

Jesus' disciples are about to be plunged into a short, sharp and intensely painful period that will be like a moment of birth. Jesus will be taken away; but they will see him again. "Not long from now, they won't see him; not long after that, they will see him again." His death and resurrection are the necessary events that will lead to his "going to the father" and his "sending of the spirit." These are extraordinary, cataclysmic events, the like of which the world has never seen before. The disciples can hardly prepare properly for them; but Jesus wants to warn them anyway. (What do you think? Would it be like finding out you were going to deliver triplets?)

It's all happening because, with Jesus' death and resurrection, a new world – THE new world – is indeed being born. That is what the author of the Gospel of John wants us to grasp. This isn't just a matter of Jesus saying "there's trouble coming, but it will be all right afterwards." It's a matter of seeing that when we find ourselves, a few chapters from now, at the foot of the cross, and then when we find ourselves after that with Mary Magdalene in the Easter garden, we shouldn't miss the significance of these events. They are not merely strange, shocking and even unique. They are the visible sign that God's new world really is being born.

It's hardly surprising, then, that Jesus has another warning as well. There are all sorts of things he would

love to talk to them about which they aren't ready for, which they couldn't cope with. As it is, they are no doubt sleepy at the end of a long day and a festive evening of Passover, and he is facing them with warnings and encouragements the like of which the world has never heard before or since.

No; they won't understand much of it just now. But part of the job of the spirit, the "helper", will be to lead them into all the truth. The spirit will also guide them, nudging their minds and imaginations into ways of knowing, and things to know, that Jesus would like to have said but couldn't at the time.

So, what do we do now? What does this have to do with us? First of all, this passage gives us a glimpse of what's coming. And then it tells us how the spirit is going to help us understand what's coming. What else? As we read through these passages, we experience the events alongside the disciples. We should walk with them through their joys and sorrows, and watch how the spirit helped them and how it can help us comprehend what God is trying to teach us and what God expects of us. Remember that Jesus said he would not leave us orphans. He didn't. He gave us God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus. They work together to be by our side always and forever. Can you feel it? Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "O Lord How Majestic Is Your Name"**  
**Video**

**PASTORAL PRAYER:**

God of all life, you have planted your church, a tree of life in the midst of the world. Keep strong your planting, preserving every branch from any blight of unbelief and leaf of hypocrisy, from barrenness and withering.

Protect it from the blast of mockery and wicked hands that would break it down. Prune your church of deadwood and make it fruitful in all union with the root and trunk of the tree, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all nations, bless the United Nations so that all your people everywhere may live with governments which are accountable to each other and to you. Bless all heads of government that they may seek your wisdom and grace to govern with rectitude. May every judge from the World Court to the local magistrate seek your truth and true justice with mercy.

Creator of all mercies, compassionate Son of God, Holy Spirit of God, continue the healing ministry of Jesus among the sick in every generation. Bless every person with healing gifts, every clinic, hospital, and hospice that cares for the sick and dying. Bless all who counsel the mentally ill, the addicted, and the confused. Bless pastors and church members who help others when they doubt and when they need reassurance.

We pray all these things in the name of your son, Jesus.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: 769 "Hear Our Prayer"**

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God.**

**Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:**

Let us share in the glory of God by aligning our resources to the kingdom of God, for the flourishing of our family, our faith community, and our world. As we trust in God's provision, give generously to meet needs, to generate opportunity, and to express gratitude.

**OFFERTORY: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"**

Lani Smith

**\*DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done;**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION:**

**Providing, Generous, and Faithful Love, we**

**demonstrate your goodness by offering these gifts.**

**Receive them for the kingdom and increase our impact in this community and the world in your name. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: 263 “O Spirit of the Living God”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

May Truth be your companion and guide

May Truth reveal and inspire

May Truth encourage and challenge

May Truth clothe you

To be a living declaration

Of Truth. Amen.

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

**THE BELL IS RUNG:**

**POSTLUDE: “Trinity Blessed” Benton Price**

**PRAYER LIST:**