



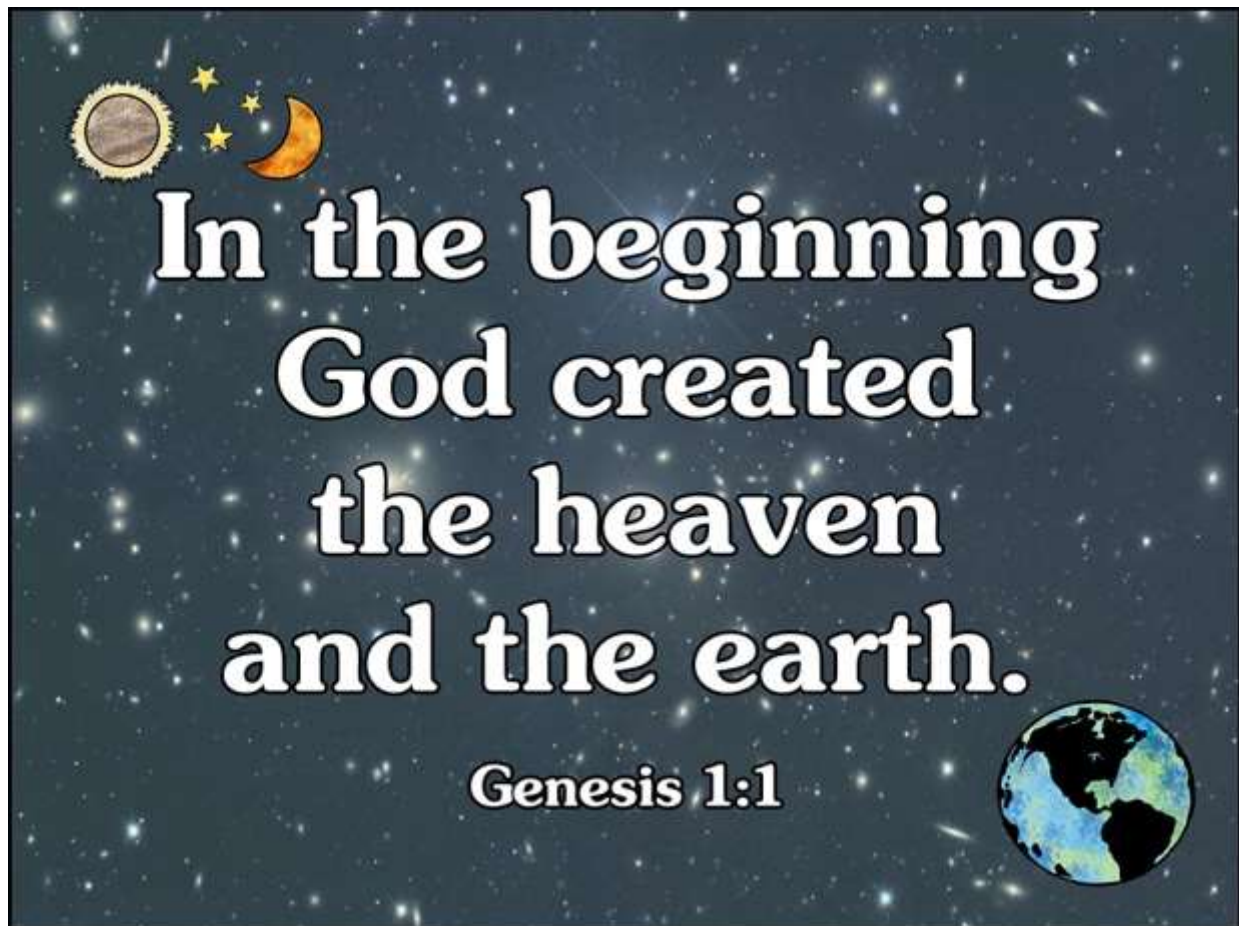
This Sunday at St. Luke's
June 4, 2023

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)

10 a.m. – Holy Communion with hymns

In-church and online

Trinity Sunday



God reveals Himself both in the Book of nature and
the book of revelation

OVERVIEW

The doctrine of the Trinity grew instinctively out of the experience of the early Christians. It was their attempt to put into words what they had come to know of God in the face of Jesus Christ and in the light of Pentecost. For that reason the doctrine is best approached and apprehended in the realm of life rather than of reason alone. Regarded as an abstract truth or as a purely academic exercise, the idea of Three Persons in One Godhead is not only baffling: it appears to be unnecessarily complicated. But looked at in the light of the Christian experience of salvation, it is found to be a vital and essential element in the Church's faith. (Canon Frank Colquhoun)

The Collect for Trinity Sunday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

FOR THE EPISTLE— Revelation 4 (J.B. Phillips)

A vision of Heaven

4 Later I looked again, and before my eyes a door stood open in Heaven, and in my ears was the voice with the ring of a trumpet, which I had heard at first, speaking to me and saying, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen in the future."
^{2-6a} Immediately I knew myself to be inspired by the Spirit, and in my vision I saw a throne had been set up in Heaven, and there was someone seated upon the throne. His appearance blazed like diamond and topaz, and all around the throne shone a halo like an emerald rainbow. In a circle around the throne there were twenty-four thrones and seated upon them twenty-four elders dressed in white with golden crowns upon their heads. From the central throne come flashes of lightning, noises and peals of thunder. Seven lamps are burning before the throne, and they are the seven Spirits of God. In front of the throne there appears a sea of glass as clear as crystal.

^{6b-8} On each side, encircling the throne, are four living creatures covered with eyes in front and behind. The first living creature is like a lion, the second is like a calf, the third has a face like a man, and the fourth living creature appears like an eagle in flight. These four creatures have each of them six wings and are covered with eyes, all around them, and even within them. Day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is coming."

The ceaseless worship of Heaven

⁹⁻¹¹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanksgiving to the one who sits upon the throne, who lives for timeless ages, the twenty-four elders prostrate themselves before him who is seated upon the throne and worship the one who lives for timeless ages. They cast their crowns before the throne and say, “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things and by your will they exist and were created.”

NOTE: In the picture language of symbol and near-poetry, the seer of Patmos (1:9-11) describes his vision of heaven. From it we gain a distinct sense of the awe and majesty of the holy Lord God Almighty. This chapter, along with Isaiah 6 and Daniel 7, should be balanced against sentimental and too-restricted human ideas of God gleaned from other parts of the Bible. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. John 3:1-15 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus and a religious leader

3 ¹⁻² One night Nicodemus, a leading Jew and a Pharisee, came to see Jesus.

“Master,” he began, “we realise that you are a teacher who has come from God. Obviously no one could show the signs that you show unless God were with him.”

³ “Believe me,” returned Jesus, “a man cannot even see the kingdom of God without being born again.”

⁴ “And how can a man who’s getting old possibly be born?” replied Nicodemus.

“How can he go back into his mother’s womb and be born a second time?”

⁵⁻⁸ “I assure you,” said Jesus, “that unless a man is born from water and from spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh and spirit gives birth to spirit: you must not be surprised that I told you that all of you must be born again. The wind blows where it likes, you can hear the sound of it but you have no idea where it comes from and where it goes. Nor can you tell how a man is born by the wind of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How on earth can things like this happen?” replied Nicodemus.

¹⁰⁻²¹ “So you are a teacher of Israel,” said Jesus, “and you do not recognise such things? I assure you that we are talking about something we really know and we are witnessing to something we have actually observed, yet men like you will not accept our evidence. Yet if I have spoken to you about things which happen on this earth and you will not believe me, what chance is there that you will believe me if I tell you about what happens in Heaven? No one has ever been up to Heaven except the Son of Man who came down from Heaven. The Son of Man must be lifted above the heads of men—as Moses lifted up that serpent in the desert—so that any man who believes in him may have eternal life

NOTE: In our Lord's conversation with Nicodemus there is much to help us think more deeply about God's revelation of Himself in the Son of Man and through the Holy Spirit. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Genesis 1:1-2:3 (RSV)

Six days of creation and the sabbath

1 In the beginning God created^[a] the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit^[b] of God was moving over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." **7** And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. **8** And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. **11** And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. **16** And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. **17** And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after 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 earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And 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.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

NOTE: The first of the two creation stories in Genesis gives us a classic picture of God the Creator. (William Sydnor)

Trinity Sunday

The Preacher – The Rector

Sunday Worship Options

In-church.

Drive-in. Those choosing this option are asked to remain in their automobile and listen to the service via their car radio (FM 98.1). Holy Communion will be provided.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on You Tube.

To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to the Rev. Claudia Pound for facilitating weekly reflection on the Sunday lectionary readings.

MEMORIAL GARDEN FEES TO INCREASE

The Vestry at its April meeting approved an increase in fees to purchase plots in St. Luke's Memorial Garden. Effective July 1, plots will be \$450. They may be purchased at the old rate of \$350 in the interim. Cost of brass plaques and granite stones (both included in the cost of a plot) has necessitated the increase. Please speak to Pat McConnell, chairman of the Cemetery Committee, for a complete table of fees or to purchase one or more plots.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sharing Tuesdays

A Preview of Sunday's Readings

10 a.m. until we're done

Sharing Tuesdays is your turn !!! There are no teachers; no leaders; no presentations; no videos; no homework; no assignments. Just COME and read the Bible together with your brothers and sisters inChrist and share from your heart. All thoughts, questions, uncertainties, feelings are welcome. All that matters is how the Bible readings impact you. Is there a special phrase? A word? An idea? A perplexity? A thought? Whatever it is, it belongs in Sharing Tuesdays. Bring your Bible and we will read the lectionary readings for the forthcoming Sunday.

CHOIR PRACTICE



Choir practice is scheduled on Sunday, June 4, and Sunday, June 11, at 9 a.m. For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund

OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2023

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2023.

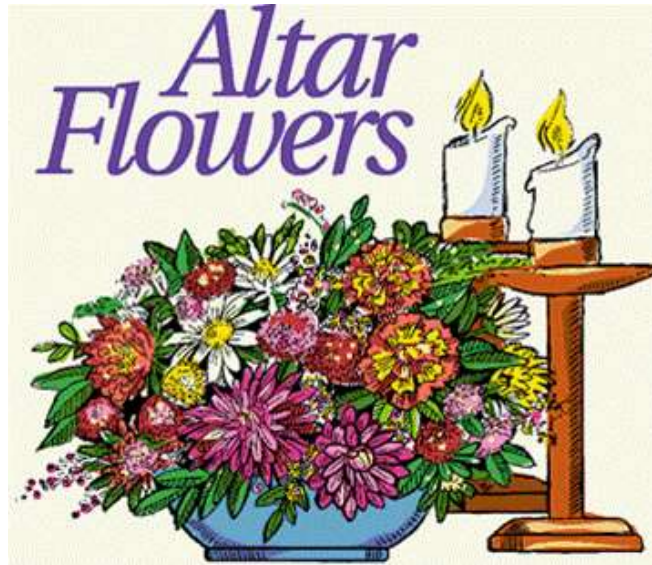
Name

Address

Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2023.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

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Name

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—
Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821), Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; (706) 632-8245; www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.