

**First Presbyterian Church  
621 North Lincoln Avenue  
Hastings, Nebraska**

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church  
Members of the Congregation, Ministers  
Rev. Charles M. Webster, Transitional Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Berke Landrum, Interim Associate Pastor  
Lay Reader: Emma Redinger  
Organist: Ashley Ehrich  
Special Music: Lucy Nielsen  
May 31, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

**Trinity Sunday**

“Trinity Sunday is the first of the many Sundays of ordinary time that follow Pentecost and eventually lead up to Advent. Today we celebrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity--God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We celebrate the holiness of the triune God, and seek to know how that holiness should take shape among the people of God. In the lesson from Isaiah, we read of Isaiah’s call. Paul’s letter to the Romans seeks to illustrate something about the nature of the first person of the Trinity, “Abba! Father!” And the gospel lesson from John recounts Nicodemus’ visit to Jesus, where Jesus’ emphasis on the spirit is significant”.

-CMW

*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Voluntary *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* JOHN B. DYKES  
(The voluntary is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection and expectation.)

\*Call to Worship (From *Psalms 8*)

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

**You have set your glory above the heavens.**

When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and stars that you have established;

**What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

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

Let us worship God.

\*Hymn No. 1

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

NICAEA

Prayer of Confession

BCW

**God of grace, love, and communion, we confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We ignore your commandments, stray from your way, and follow other gods. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sin and raise us to new life that we may serve you faithfully and give honor to your holy name.**

*(Silence for personal confession)*

Kyrie No. 578

*O Lord, Have Mercy*

ORE PROIAJU VEREKO

***O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, have mercy; O Christ have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.***

Declaration of Forgiveness

\*Response of Praise – No. 581

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.***

\*Welcome and Ritual of Friendship

Children's Moment

Chris Schukei

Prayer for Illumination

**Holy God, who is faithful and unchanging: as your word is read and proclaimed, enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

First Reading – *Isaiah 6:1-8*

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The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

*Ständchen*

FRANZ SCHUBERT

Lucy Nielsen, Flute

Erik Nielsen, Accompanist

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn No. 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (stanzas 1-2)*

ST. DENIO

\*Gospel Reading – *John 3:1-17*

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The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*Hymn No. 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (stanzas 3-4)*

ST. DENIO

Sermon

*Language and God*

Rev. Charles M. Webster

\*Affirmation of Faith

(from the Iona Community)

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life.**

**Amen.**

Concerns and Celebrations

Commissioning

Vacation Bible School and Go and Serve Teams

Prayers of the People

Offering

*(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PCUSA Hunger Fund)*

Offertory

*Meditation on "Melita"*

ROBERT WOLF

\*Doxology No. 607

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.  
Amen.*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray.

\*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.**

\*Hymn No. 8

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

MELITA

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Response, Hymn No. 232, stanza 4

***Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!***

***praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!***

***Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!***

***Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

\*Postlude

*Prelude in Classic Style*

GORDON YOUNG

# Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday originated about 1000 C.E. in northern Europe and in 1334 the festival was accepted into the official calendar of the Western Church and ordered that it should be held on the Sunday after Pentecost. It is the only church festival honoring a doctrine – the mystery of God – rather than an event or a person. *Mystery*, in this connection, means a supernatural fact revealed by God, which in itself transcends the natural power of human reasoning. Trinity Sunday proclaims the Triune God, into whose name we are baptized, and who is active in redeeming the world.

The location of this feast on the Sunday after Pentecost may be interpreted as a grateful look back at the complete mystery of salvation, which according to early theology, is accomplished by the Father, through the Son in the Holy Spirit.

Since it is a day of celebration, the color is white – the festival color of the Church. The festal service includes “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of God’s glory.” (*Isaiah 6:3*) and “for God so loved the world...” (*John 3:16*)

In celebrating Trinity Sunday we should remember that every Sunday is consecrated to the Triune God. On the first day of the week, God began creation. On the first day of the week, God raised Jesus from the grave. On the first day of the week, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Church. Every Sunday we celebrate the Holy Trinity!

\* \* \* \* \*

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who consoles us in all our affliction, for just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so our consolation is abundant for us through Christ, sealed in our hearts through the power and constant presence of the Holy Spirit.” (*2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 21-22*)

John Calvin declared, “Christ is not only the pledge of our adoption, but God also gives us the Holy Spirit as a witness to this adoption, through whom we may freely cry aloud, ‘Abba, Father.’ Whenever we are distressed, remember to ask for the presence of the Spirit who will enable us to pray boldly.” (*Institutes*, III.20.37)

## Announcements:

**The radio broadcast** is provided by JoAnn and Les Seiler.

**Today's service may be seen on Channel 181** Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., or Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**For those living at Good Samaritan Village** the service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

**The flowers** today are in loving memory of Jane Kuehn McCollum by Jerry, Gladys and Brad Kuehn.

**Ushers:** Dave Fisher, Neal Hoff, Susan Hoff, Ed Lockwood, Phil Odom, Rich Portwood

**Greeters:** Dwight and Jane Marsh

**Acolytes:** Hannah Hafer, Nyaguor Duang

**Nursery:** Abbie Shetler

The Rev. Dr. James P. Cooke and Mary Jeanne Cooke will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with an OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Regency Retirement Residence from 2:00 to 4:00. Their five children and thirteen grandchildren invite their friends and neighbors to this celebration.

Next Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – ***Summer Choir begins.*** Do you enjoy singing? Please join us on the first and third Sundays of June, July, and August. Rehearsal begins at 9:30 in the choir room, worship at 10:30 in the church sanctuary. Michael Hull will be conducting the choir.

Also, next Sunday, Pastor Webster has invited **Carol Howard Merritt** to be our guest preacher. She is a frequent contributor to *The Christian Century* and the author of *Tribal Church* and *Reframing Hope*, two books that Pastor Charlie endorses.

### **This Week ----- June 1-6**

Monday, June 1	9:00	VBS begins!
	11:00	Staff Meeting
Tuesday, June 2	9:00	VBS
	1:00	Quilters
Wednesday, June 3	9:00	VBS
	12:00	Summer Book Club – Parlor
	5:30	Worship and Music, Anderson Conference Room
	6:00	Church Nominating Committee, Kessler Room
Thursday, June 4	9:00	VBS
Friday, June 5	9:00	VBS
	5:30	refinishing of Fellowship Hall floor
Saturday, June 6	9:00	Go and Serve departs from church