

## Welcome and Announcements – Brendon

Good morning, Emmanuel. Welcome to our service for the seventh Sunday after Pentecost, or the seventh Sunday of ordinary time. I trust it's been a good week for you. Apart from the baptism last Sunday, which I shared with you on Thursday, my big outdoor adventure this past week was replacing a broken fencepost for a gate at our home. That involved some engineering to get old piece of post out and then digging a 4ft hole manually with a posthole digger. At the end of the project, I was grateful for a neighbor, a member of our church family, and a brother-in-law – each of whom contributed either a tool or labour to make the project successful.

We gather each week to imagine what our lives could be like because Jesus is Lord, and we believe he is at work in our world making all things new. So we gather to be reminded of who Jesus is, King of kings and Lord of lords, of who we are as his beloved children, and who together we can be as a community seeking his kingdom and pursuing his righteousness and justice in our world. May we allow the Holy Spirit to root us deeply in God's love so that his love overflows from us in righteousness and justice and mercy and compassion and peace.

It was good to visit with a few more of you in person this past week. As much as I appreciate our connections through zoom and other media, nothing beats physical presence. So I trust that we will continue to connect responsibly with others in person. Let's take advantage of the great weather to meet in a park or on a deck, go for a walk or hang out on a sidewalk.

As always, you can find more information on our website, [www.ebap.ca](http://www.ebap.ca), about ways to connect. Simply click on the banner that says "New Ways of Connecting @ EBC". A lot of that information is also sent out in the weekly emails that Jan sends out on Mondays. And remember to check out the weekly bulletin for prayer concerns and other information about our church family.

I remind you of the note in the bulletin from the nominating committee regarding nominations of suitable candidates to serve on the board of elders for the next season, which will begin after our Annual General Meeting in October. This is a significant way to serve our church family and participate in the leadership and oversight of our church. I am grateful for our elders and the good work they do. Each elder can serve two three-year terms, so there's usually one or more rotating off each year, hence the need to replace them. If you'd like to nominate someone to serve, you can contact the office for more details on that. Just send Jan an email at [info@ebap.ca](mailto:info@ebap.ca). The deadline for nominations is August 16.

This past week, we received news from The Quest at Christopher Lake about a couple of summer initiatives. One is called Quest Crates, which is camp-in-a-box for kids who are not able to be at camp this summer (which is pretty much every one). The second initiative is Family Fresh Air Weekends, which are mini-Family Camps each weekend in August. To learn more about these initiatives, please go their website, [www.questnet.ca](http://www.questnet.ca).

And finally, thanks for your continued support of the ministry to which God has called us as a church family. We finished our fiscal year under budget, but our expenses were also under budget so we should start this new year with a healthy surplus. We hope to have a preliminary financial statement for the year out to you in the next week or so. You can always find information about giving on our website and you can drop off your offering anytime in the mailbox at the front of our facility. We praise God for his faithful provision through the generosity of his people.

Now, let us lift up our hearts in joyful worship and grateful thanksgiving to Jesus, our risen and exalted Lord, who together with the Father and the Spirit have drawn us into the communion of their joy-filled life. May we be strengthened in every way as we abide in their life and love. May we be filled with the presence and power of our Triune God to become the people we were created and redeemed to be, for the glory of God and for the good of the world. Amen.

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### **Song – Emmanuel Musicians**

Our God Alone

Who formed the mountains, and filled the oceans  
our God alone, our God alone  
Who took the dust, breathed life in us  
our God alone, our God alone

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Who came from heaven, for our redemption  
our God alone, our God alone  
Who died for sin, that we may live  
our God alone, our God alone

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Who rose again, death could not win  
our God alone, our God alone  
Who is returning, building a Kingdom  
our God alone, our God alone  
We will worship, we will worship  
our God alone, our God alone

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

David Gungor

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## **Kids Moment - Beverly**

Hi Everyone. My name is Beverly Toth and today I'll be reading a short story for children from a Gospel Project devotional I have.

Jane ran up to the sign posted by the roller coaster. She turned around, stood up straight, and motioned to her older brother Kent. Kent approached.

"Am I tall enough?" Jane asked.

Kent shook his head. "Doesn't look like it." Then he held his fingers about a half an inch apart. "Missed it by that much."

Jane furrowed her brow. "I'm never going to be able to ride that ride," she said. "Sometimes I just want to be a grown up!"

Have you ever been frustrated about being a kid? Maybe your height has kept you from riding a roller coaster like Jane. Perhaps your weight kept you from playing a certain sport. Or maybe your parents said you couldn't do something you really wanted until you were older.

Did you know that when God looks at you, He doesn't just see a child who is too short, too small, or too young? When God looks at you, God sees a person who has incredible worth.

When Jesus was only twelve years old, He stayed at the temple to ask questions about God and grow in His understanding of the truth. Jesus did this because He treasured the things of God, and He cared about His relationship with God the Father more than anything else.

Even though you are still young, you can treasure the things of God too, starting now. Later in Jesus' life, the book of Matthew tells us He said, "Leave the children alone, and don't try to keep them from coming to Me, because the kingdom of heaven is made up of people like this."

The Bible also says not to let anyone look down on us because we are young, but to set an example for others in our words and actions (1Timothy 4:12). So even though you might be too young to do certain things, you are not too young to follow God and be part of His kingdom. God wants to teach you truth, give you wisdom, and remind you today that God loves you perfectly all the time.

Have a great week everybody.

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## **Song – Emmanuel Musicians**

King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart  
be the mountain where I run  
The fountain I drink from  
oh, He is my song  
Let the King of my heart  
be the shadow where I hide  
The ransom for my life  
oh, He is my song

You are good, good

Let the King of my heart  
be the wind inside my sails  
The anchor in the waves  
oh, He is my song  
Let the King of my heart  
be the fire inside my veins  
The echo of my days  
oh he is my song

You are good, good

You're never gonna let  
never gonna let me down

And when the night is holding onto me  
God is holding on

John Mark McMillian  
Sarah McMillian

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## **Community Prayer – Betty**

Good morning. My name is Elaine Janz. Let's bow our hearts as we join in the prayer of Confession before I lead in community prayer:

We confess to you, Lord,  
what we are:

we are not the people  
we like others to think we are;

we are afraid to admit even to ourselves  
what lies in the depths of our souls.

But we do not want to hide  
our true selves from you.

(Silence)

We believe that you know us as we are,  
and yet you love us.

Help us not to shrink  
from self-knowledge;

teach us to respect ourselves  
and affirm our uniqueness and worth;

give us the courage to put our trust  
in your guiding and power.

(Silence)

We also confess to you, Lord,  
the unrest of the world,

to which we contribute  
and in which we share.

Forgive our reliance  
on weapons of terror,

our cold indifference  
to the needs of others,

our discrimination  
against people of different races

our preoccupation  
with material standards.

(Silence)

Forgive our being unsure  
of the good news about you and from you,

and so unready to tell it,  
share it and live it.

Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt  
into the freedom and energy  
of forgiven people.

And for those who through long habit  
find forgiveness hard to accept  
we ask you to break their bondage  
and set them free  
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Holy Spirit, turn on hearts from despair to devotion, from worry to worship, from distrust to doxology.

We approach your presence of a father, acknowledging our complete dependence on your grace and mercy.

We praise you for salvation, forgiveness of sins and for clothing us in Christ's righteousness.

We praise you for the Spirit who indwells us, guidance and teaching us what it means to abide.

Thank you for drawing us into the fellowship of the Trinity and the family of believers.

What a joy to commune with an awe-inspiring God, a God whose power can shake the earth and raise the dead, whose majesty and splendour eyes have yet to behold.

As we try to grasp this, we fall to our knees and praise your holy name. Thank you God.

We are overwhelmed by your love in allowing us to bring our concerns to you and to intercede for one another.

We thank you for staff and the creative ways used to express gods love to the community. Bless them Lord.

Thank you for the message you have for us this morning. As your Spirit ministers through Dave, open our hearts and minds to comprehend and obey your word.

Thank you for your presence among the lonely of our community. Continue to reveal ways in which we can connect with them.

Thank you for the comfort you give to those who are grieving and others are struggling with health concerns of various nature. Bring healing to their situations.

We pray for guidance and direction for those seeking employment.

We thank you for your compassion for on the marginalized, the abandoned, the imprisoned, the persecuted and others suffering in various ways. Teach us to be active in caring as well.

We pray for wisdom for the leaders of our land, civic, provincial and federal. May they seek wise counsel.

God we thank you that you are Sovereign. You are in control! Not only of the present, but have been in the past and will continue in the future. No one can thwart your plans!

Thank you for your faithfulness! Increase our faith and trust in your great name - the all sufficient "I AM." Amen.

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### Scripture Reading - Tessa

Hi everyone, my name is Tessa Verdouw and I will be reading John 14, verses 1-23.

<sup>1</sup> "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going."

<sup>5</sup> "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. <sup>11</sup> Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

<sup>12</sup> "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. <sup>13</sup> You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.

<sup>14</sup> Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, obey my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. <sup>18</sup> No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."

<sup>22</sup> Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, "Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them."

## **Song – Emmanuel Musicians**

### Gravity of Love

I lift my eyes up to the hills  
this my morning song  
where my strength comes from

I lift my eyes up to the hills  
this my evening song  
where my help comes from

This is the gravity of love  
just as the moon follows the sun  
You're all around me  
You're holding everything

This is the hope of every land  
just as the universe expands  
You're love is reaching  
You're holding everything

We lift our eyes up to the hills  
when will our help come  
Lord we cry how long

We lift our eyes up to the hills  
even as we run  
hope is chasing us

John Arndt  
David Gungor  
Matt Maher

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## **Abiding Reflections – Gary and Shauna**

(Brendon) We are continuing our summer teaching series called “Abide” in which we are exploring the invitation from Jesus to abide or remain in him, as he abides or remains in us. Today, David Toth will be sharing about Entering Into The Life Of the Trinity. Before we hear from David, however, let’s listen to a couple of people in our church family as they respond to the question: “What does abiding in Jesus look like in your life?” Today we hear from Gary Dewarle and Shauna Milner:

(Gary) I know that in one way it seems straightforward, but in other ways, to me it’s a challenge. There’s a challenge not only to do with personal discipline, but also with intentionality. I know the Lord Jesus has said that he’ll never leave us nor forsake us,

but sometimes it's easy to forget. But it's also beautiful in times of difficulties and troubles and challenges, we know that we can count on him, that his presence is very real. His word is very practical – and we know that we can count on him. It says in Scripture that as we draw near to him, that he will draw near to us, and this is my desire and I'm sure your desire as well, that we might feel that and sense that reality of his joy, his peace, his presence, his power and his strength. And we'll give him the honour and the glory forever.

(Shauna) Remaining or abiding in Jesus looks a bit like my marriage. I love my husband, Cameron, and enjoy spending time with him. I am pretty attached to him. I also love the Father, Son and Spirit and enjoy spending time with them. Sometimes when challenges come up, I doubt or do not value God or I ignore Him. He is still with me. Occasionally in my marriage times are tough and I take my husband for granted by not valuing him. Loving each other means we will work on our relationship, persist, endure and abide with each other through thick and thin. God sticks with me and loves me no matter what! For me to remain in God is to breathe in His presence and not to hold my breath in but to breathe out His presence on others as best I can.

As I meander through this COVID season, I have been afforded more time and space to spend on my relationship with God. In the early mornings I walk and talk with God and even occasionally listen. God provides views of His creation to reflect who He is. I have been going through Psalm 23; a psalm of His “abiding” with us as He provides, leads, refreshes, guides, protects and comforts us. He draws me to ponder the path He has got me on. God implanted on my heart the idea to email stories of encouragement to some friends and family through this pandemic season so they may know they are not alone. My ponderings have pulled me closer to Jesus and to others despite a potential to be distant during this time. I am grateful for God being ever present and abiding with me.

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## **Teaching - David**

### **Entering Into The Life Of The Trinity**

Good morning Emmanuel.

When Brendon asked me to consider sharing this morning I recognized immediately that I was in for a challenge, not because I am inexperienced in speaking but because my practise has been to speak from an outline not from a script. Secondly, much of the training I have as a speaker relates to establishing connection with the listener. That will be a challenge as I talk to this microphone.

I'll tell you what I am going to do. As I speak I am going to visualize you sitting in front of me. I will start on my left from the pulpit and see Enchuan & Aurora; Bill & Judy; Ernie and Helen; Lucy, Daniel & Samuel; Ed & Irene; Leonard; Ron & Sheilagh; Clayton or Murray in the sound booth; Roger on power point; Bill, Diane & Sarah; Jan; Cam & Barb; the Peters clan; then the Moorman family; in the right front Tim & Jo Dee; and let's not forget those at the back... Elsie; Jane; Lyndon.... now I realize that I have left

many of you out but the amazing thing is that as I visualize each of you listening to me you are all fully engaged, focused, listening, taking everything in, processing, no-one's mind is wandering... well it might happen!! (☺☺☺)

By the way... you are all looking great today!!

Entering in to the life of the Trinity... Brendon mentioned that he was going to introduce my part in this series as he spoke to you about the Trinity last week. I encouraged him to make sure he did not get your expectations too high! Today I am sharing about a process that has been developing in my experience over the last several months. John Stonestreet repeats often the phrase, "ideas have consequences". I am convinced that our ideas about God have far greater consequences than we will understand until we meet Him face to face.

This morning I am going to start by giving you a little of my background. We are then going to look at the question "what does Trinitarian life – by that I mean life in the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit in relationship - look like?" After looking at Trinitarian life we will consider what does it mean to 'enter in' to the life of the Trinity.

Last week Brendon mentioned Darrell Johnsons book 'Experiencing The Trinity'. I encourage you to read it as a foundation for further exploration of your understanding of God and of the Trinity. His book has informed much of what I will share today.

Someone has said that attempting to understand the Trinity is like looking at "a riddle wrapped up inside a puzzle and buried in an enigma". Darrel Johnson – pg 37. Augustine spend his life considering the Trinity. The greatest minds in Christendom have contemplated the mystery of the Trinity. I trust that this brief message will encourage you to consider engaging in reflection on the Trinity. My conviction is that I am only lightly scratching the surface of this reality. For me that light scratching has already had significant repercussions.

Regardless, I was introduced to Jesus in a denomination that many considered was founded on heresy. My denomination traced it's roots to the Azusa Street outpouring of the Holy Spirit which took place in Los Angeles from 1906 - 1915 (Wikipedia). That outpouring is credited with starting the spread of Pentecostalism in North America. In the midst of that experience a group of people noticed in the scriptures that although Jesus instructed that we baptize in the name of the 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' (Matt 28:19) in the book of Acts the apostles baptised in the name of Jesus. As a result they determined that Jesus should be given greater significance in teaching about the Godhead.

When I came to faith the controversy that had started the denomination had dropped away, however, we continued to teach 'Jesus, and him crucified' with little mention of the Trinity. There was also a strong focus on the Holy Spirit moving in power.

I knew I was a believer. I expressed my faith in Jesus, determined to live for Jesus, recognized that Jesus was part of the Godhead but did not recognize that relationship with-in the Godhead made any difference for me. I believed in the grace of God but practised a very legalistic expression of his grace. 10 – 12 years ago I was given an understanding of God's love for me (we will talk about that more later) which resulted in

a new appreciation of the Father heart of God. I found myself moved toward recognizing God as Father while maintaining my ignorance to the truth of the Trinity

My experience with The Journey – a spiritual formation curriculum that we offer here at Emmanuel - introduced the truth of the Trinity in a new way for me. Then along came Steve Bell last fall with his teaching that worship has its foundation in the Trinity. Steve introduced the following question to me... “What if, rather than inviting Jesus into my life, salvation is acknowledging that I have been invited into his life... into life in the Trinity?”

What difference does that make you ask?

I know this is a simplistic example, but if you invite me to come to your house do I bring my practises with me or do I watch for cues from you to determine what is accepted practice in your house? Reversing the question, if I invite you to come to my house do you bring your practices or do you look to me for cues as you determine how you will act and react?

If I invite Jesus into my life do I adjust my life to his life or do I ask him to adjust his life to mine? Who is in control?

If I instead I accept the invitation to enter into the life of the Trinity do I focus on conforming my life to Trinitarian life rather than adjusting Trinitarian life to fit my life as I want to live it? (Try saying Trinitarian six times in a row!)

### **What does life in the Trinity look like?**

Let's start with a quote from Darrel Johnson's book, Experiencing the Trinity. On page 37 he writes:

“At the center of the universe is a relationship.” That is the most fundamental truth I know. At the center of the universe is a community. It is out of that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed. And it is for that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed! And it turns out that there is a three-fold-ness to that relationship. It turns out that the community is a Trinity. The center of reality is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Let's read that again...

“At the center of the universe is a relationship.” That is the most fundamental truth I know. At the center of the universe is a community. It is out of that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed. And it is for that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed! And it turns out that there is a three-fold-ness to that relationship. It turns out that the community is a Trinity. The center of reality is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Okay, once more...

“At the center of the universe is a relationship.” That is the most fundamental truth I know. At the center of the universe is a community. It is out of that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed. And it is for that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed! And it turns out that there is a three-fold-ness to that

relationship. It turns out that the community is a Trinity. The center of reality is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Maybe you want to read it again and let that truth settle deep in your spirit. That relationship is at the center of our text this morning. In Jesus words; “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!” “I am in the Father and the Father is in me”, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you”.

“God is Ontologically love”. You can thank Steve Bell for me dropping that big word on you. Ontology is the study of being. You and I are ontologically human. The chair you are sitting on is ontologically inanimate. At the center of the universe is God whose very being is Love. This is one of the fundamental truths about the Trinity that Steve Bell included in his seminar last fall. GOD IS LOVE. Father, Son and Holy Spirit existing from eternity to eternity in very nature love. God loves because his nature is love! God loves out of his being! Love is not something God learned to do. Love is who He is.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit - God - complete, needing nothing outside themselves, mutually submitted one to the other from eternity to eternity. Ravi Zacharias asks the question, “Without the Trinity could God be Love? Who would he love?”

I had an ‘ah ha’ moment when I heard Steve Bell express this truth about God. Have you, like me, wondered why God created the world. When he knew from the foundation of the world what this world would look like, that Adam and Eve would disobey, that one day he would have to send his son, and even after his son died for us we would continue to seek our own ways. “Why bother”? The enemy of my soul wanted me to think that I am here, that this world is here to meet a need in God. If that is the case God would not be self-sufficient, he would not/could not be God! How could I trust a God who was needy? Well, it turns out he is not!

God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who’s very nature, very being is love; out of the overflow of that love creates... God does not create out of need! One day we will see the full extent of that creation! Hallelujah! “The heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament shows his handiwork...” “Oh for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemers praise, the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace”; Or as Chris Tomlin wrote, “From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea, creation revealing Your majesty. From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring, every creature unique in the song that it sings, All exclaiming; Indescribable, uncontainable, you placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name, You are amazing God. All powerful, untameable, Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim, you are amazing God”.

Out of the outflow of the love in the Trinity God creates!

Back to the question, what does life in the Trinity look like? Darrell Johnson gives seven characteristics of that life even as he acknowledges that we could identify many more. His choices are: Intimacy – a deep abiding, tender, affectionate belonging. Joy – The Father delights in the Son, the Son enjoys the Father and that joy is embodied in the Holy Spirit who is sent to us so that ‘our joy may be full’ (John 15:11). Servanthood – expressed so wonderfully in Philippians 2 – “Jesus did not consider equality something to be grasped but took on the form of a servant”. Purity – No twistedness, no deceit, no manipulation, purity that is not the absence of darkness but purity that is the presence of

Light. Power – immeasurable power that can hold the stars in place, power that creates, incomparably, great power that raised Jesus from the grave and seated Him above all rule and authority and every name that is named (Eph 1: 19 – 22). Creativity - that splashes color, that designs a tarantula and that sends a redeemer into the world as a baby in a manger. Peace – At the center of the universe peace reigns because the Trinity is never threatened, the Trinity never panics.

Ravi Zacharias adds that “in the Trinity we have unity, diversity and community”. The God of the Bible is the only Deity in all of the world religions who is love, is perfect unity, dwells in community while expressing diversity.

Johnson wraps up his discussion of life in the Trinity with the following quote, “The Gospel of God as Trinity overwhelms me. I only wish I had understood what I now understand much earlier. (I say amen to that) The living God is not a solitary God. The living God is not a lonely god. The living God is a Relationship. And this God draws close to us to draw us close to himself, pulling us into the circle to participate with him in the Trinitarian Intimacy, Trinitarian Joy, Trinitarian Servanthood, Trinitarian Purity, Trinitarian Power, Trinitarian Creativity and the Trinitarian Peace.”

### **How Do We Enter In To Life In The Trinity?**

I am convinced that understanding and experiencing the reality of God’s love and being willing to truly trust him are two of the keys to entering Trinitarian life. Let me attempt to unpack what I mean.

As I said earlier I “came to faith” in a denomination that believed in grace. Unfortunately the reality that “people who believe in grace should be gracious people” did not inform my walk with God. I believed in grace but lived a very legal lifestyle. What I believed, being able to defend those things I believed and having the right answers was my foundation for approaching life.

I worked hard to be good enough for God, but habitual sin led to a life of self - condemnation. The result was a sense that I could never be good enough for God even though I worked hard to earn his approval. At the end of the day, no matter how ‘good’ I had been, or how busy I was for God I knew that my goodness could not over-come my failures even as I was sure that I was God’s child. I vividly remember the night when I was released from that mountain of self-condemnation through a message on the Father’s welcome of the prodigal son. What a wonderful experience. I would be delighted to connect with anyone who has questions about what I came to understand that evening.

That was only a first step. I still did not appreciate Gods’ love. Each of us draws conclusions about God, about His love for us, about his desire for us based on our experience. Even though my formative years were trauma free in a stable Christian environment my belief about His love did not line up with his character. He reached out to me through a speaker who shared his journey out of the need to be ‘good enough’ for God. It came from an understanding of God’s love that was based on the answers to three questions:

- Q1 - When did God start loving me? *“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.”* Ephesians 1:4

NLT *“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8 NLT*

- Q2 - Is there anything I can do to cause Him to love me more... or less? *But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) Eph 2:4&5 NLT*
- Q3 - Will I ever be more saved, more Gods’ child than I was the moment I realized that I needed to be saved? No, no I won’t. Of course, I can be and I need to be more sanctified. That comes through entering into life in the Trinity.

Secondly we have to come to a place of trust. Brennan Manning whose books ‘Ruthless Trust’ and ‘Ragamuffin Gospel’ played an important role in my increased awareness of God’s love and acceptance of me asserts that “our ability/willingness to trust God regardless of our circumstances is a better barometer of our relationship with him than is our faith in Him”.

Entering in to relationship is a matter of trust. We do not give ourselves to someone we do not trust. The challenge is that each of us consciously or unconsciously create a persona by which we like to be acknowledged, a persona which we present to others and which we end up presenting to God. Even as I prepare this message I am aware that I want to you receive me a certain way, to see me as one who has it together, who has entering in to the life of the Trinity figured out. Please understand that I am simply stumbling forward, often stumbling more than forward.

You have probably heard it said that if you are planning a trip from Saskatoon to Vancouver you can’t start in Edmonton and expect to reach your destination. In the same way entering in to life in the Trinity demands brutal honesty. That honesty requires confidence that the Trinity will welcome you. There is a song by the band Pocket Full of Rocks titled: Come as You Are. Check out the lyrics.

He's not mad at you, He's not disappointed.

His grace is greater still, than all of your wrong choices.

He is full of mercy and he is ever kind

Hear his invitation, His arms are open wide

You can come as you are, with all your broken pieces

And all your shameful scars.

The pain you hold in your heart, bring it all to Jesus

You can come as you are.

Louder than the voice that whispers your unworthy

Hear the sound of love, that tells a different story.

Shattering your darkness and pushing through the lies

How tenderly he calls you, His arms are open wide.

You can come as you are...

Trinitarian life – based in Love and Trust not in performance. Do you hear your Spirit saying: “Pick Me”? If you do ‘bring it all to Jesus, you can come as you are’.

Trinitarian Intimacy  
Trinitarian Joy  
Trinitarian Servanthood  
Trinitarian Purity  
Trinitarian Power  
Trinitarian Creativity  
Trinitarian Peace

Take a moment, or several to allow the Spirit of God to settle what he has been saying to you in your spirit this morning. God bless you!

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### **Song – Emmanuel Musicians**

Holy Father, Son and Spirit  
holy Communion, three-in-one

Come with your peace, with your invitation  
bind us together in Holy Love

Sandra McCracken

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### **Benediction - Brendon**

May we go now, dependent on God, rooted in Jesus and led by the Spirit, to fully love God and all people for God's Kingdom, pleasure and glory. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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### **Musicians**

Russ Berg, Adam Bourassa, Amy Bourassa, John Erik Gustafson, Scott Jeschke, Scott Lepp, Laura Monchuk, rob Priestley, Ian Summach, Dave Young.