



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021

Adoption into the Family of the Trinity

Romans 8:12-17

8:12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

8:13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

8:16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

8:17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Pierre Toussaint from Haiti came to New York City as a slave and Roman Catholic convert devoted to God working on behalf of the poor and orphans. He, after emancipating himself, helped build the first St. Patrick's Church raising funds for it, orphans, and indigent children. The church has venerated Toussaint for his charitable work and dedication to God. Toussaint may be considered the Black patron saint of adoption and orphans.

The writer of Romans celebrates our adoption as the children of God emanating from genuine faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. This faith sanctifies our hope of life in the Spirit because the Spirit of God testifies to our holy paternity. Our new life is formed by a birth of the Holy Spirit in us, is ransomed by an effectual sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and is instituted by the will of God Almighty. The very Triune God guarantees our incorporation in the family of God, becoming a present reality of a future presence in eternal glory. Our baptism into the suffering of Christ is eclipsed by the sharing in His everlasting glorification. Our belief institutes an adoption of salvation and service warranting us eternal life as heirs with Jesus Christ.

On this Trinity Sunday, let us continue to worship, witness, and work for God and the beloved community as the adopted children of God, blessing others and the Kingdom now and forevermore.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you have trusted adoption into community as a guiding principle. How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

Read or recite the Apostle's Creed, our Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

PRAY: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us, your 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 the Unity. We beseech you that you would keep us steadfast in this faith and worship and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father with the Son, and the Holy Ghost who lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT:

1. Join an existing church group, reflecting on your inclusion and welcome. Discuss your perceptions with the group. Journal your experience and reflect on your faith journey. Do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the craft activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song:

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
AMEC Hymnal, #25

1. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! Lord God Al-might-y!
Ear-ly in the morn-ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! mer-ci-ful and might-y;
God in three per-sons, bless-ed Trin-i-ty!
2. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! All the saints a-dore Thee,
Cast-ing down their gold-en crowns a-round the glass-y sea;
Cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim fall-ing down be-fore Thee,
Which wert, and art, and ev-er-more shalt be.

3. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! Though the dark-ness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sin-ful man Thy glo-ry may not see;
On-ly Thou art ho-ly; there is none be-side Thee,
Per-fect in power, in love, and pur-i-ty.
4. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! Lord God Al-might-y!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly! mer-ci-ful and might-y;
God in three per-sons, bless-ed Trin-i-ty! A-men.

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.