

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

One of the most evocative passages in Scripture is the first eight verses of the sixth chapter of Isaiah. The prophet's vision is firmly rooted in history—we are told that it occurred in the year that King Uzziah died (around 738 BC)—but it gives us a glimpse at the throne of God. Right from the very beginning of the passage, as the prophet tells us that the king had died, we are to understand that human kings will come and go but that God's sovereignty is eternal.

After a vision of smoke swirling around the room; of God, whose majesty is so vast and incomprehensible that the hem of his garment fills the room; and of the seraphim whose voices shake the very foundations of the building, we come to the point of decision. At the conclusion of this passage, God has purified Isaiah and called him to go forth to the people with a message. God says, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me."

We read this passage on Trinity Sunday not because it is the call of Isaiah to a ministry of prophecy but because it contains some of the earliest material that the Church fathers had to work with in developing the doctrine of the Trinity. Some would argue that there is no unequivocal basis for this doctrine of one God but three persons in Scripture—the word "Trinity" is never even used in the Bible. Yet, the doctrine of the Trinity has become one of the cornerstones of Christian faith, cemented in the creed that came from the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 (yes, the Nicene Creed we say most Sundays is 1,700 years old!).

Even if there is no direct reference to the Trinity in Scripture, theologians in the early Church saw in this passage from Isaiah a number of pointers to an early understanding of God as three persons. First, there is the song of the seraphim, "Holy, holy, holy", which was taken to refer to each of the three. Then, the curious shift in person in the interrogation, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" The "I" in the first half refers to God as One, the "us" in the second half refers to God as a council of Three. Even though the Nicene Creed was only formalised in the year 325, it had antecedents that were 1,000 years older yet.

So, the question then, for us, is why do we care about this mystery that we call the doctrine of the Trinity? Perhaps, on one level, it is enough to simply let it alone, saying that it's a mystery and we will never understand it. And, besides, you might say, what impact does it have on our daily life? In and of itself, perhaps not much. But, to my mind, so much ink—and, indeed, blood—has been spilt over this doctrine that it *must* be important for some reason.

For me, ultimately, it comes down to this: the awesome majesty of God, whom we know to be One, but exists in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is an image of a Community that works together at creating, redeeming, and sanctifying the world. As we have just come through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, culminating in the Feast of Pentecost, we have heard the stories of the Creation, the Resurrection, and the descent of the Holy Spirit.

As we enter into the season of Sundays after Pentecost, where we focus less on the events of Jesus' life and more on our response to them, we find that we are called, like Isaiah, to witness to the power of God to create, redeem, and sanctify the world. And, perhaps, as we strive each day to become more like Jesus, whom John Calvin thought to be the face of the invisible God, we might also become a community of creation, redemption, and sanctification. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Here am I; send me.



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

*To be a Spirit-filled and life-giving place where strangers
become friends and friends become disciples.*

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday 31 May 2015
Trinity Sunday

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith
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QUEEN ANNE PARISH CENTRE

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Mission Statement

Our mission, for the glory of God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to:

- Celebrate all that God has done for us through worship and witness with others.
- Respond to our call to be disciples of Christ by sharing our faith, rooted in the Word of God, with others and encouraging others to become followers of Christ through word and action.
- Practice good stewardship of our human, financial and environmental resources, working to ensure that all of God's Creation is viable for future generations.
- Grow ourselves and others by reaching out to our communities, following Jesus' example of generous caring, giving, and welcoming.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Archdeaconry 2016 Diocesan Budget Consultations—Tue 2 Jun, 7 p.m. at the QAPC. Parish leadership are invited to attend an evening session facilitated by the diocesan Finance Committee to hold discussions and invite input from parishes on diocesan priorities for the 2016 Budget. We need to provide light refreshments (tea, coffee, cookies etc): anyone who can help, please speak to Brad after church today.

22 Days—An initiative by the Anglican Church of Canada to mark the 22 days between the final national event of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (31 May) and National Aboriginal Day (21 Jun). We are called by the Primate to listen to the stories of survivors, to pray, to work for justice for indigenous people, and to toll our bells in solidarity. For more info, visit www.22days.ca. We will ring our bell 1,181 times Wed 3, 10, 17 Jun, 2:00-3:38 p.m. Anyone interested in joining for a time of reflection and to assist with the ringing, please just show up.

Food Bank Donations—We gather non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of each month and donate them to the Food Bank. The Food Bank is experiencing a significant increase in the number of families it serves so this is a material way we can help our neighbours. The next Food Bank Sunday is 7 Jun.

Strawberry Social—Sun 5 Jul. Save the date, more info to follow.

Summer Fruits for Souls—21-24 Jul. Sponsored by the Lay Reader's Association and the Diocese, this conference is open to all interested lay people who wish to attend. This conference will focus on training, learning and development in Christian ministry within an Anglican context. Please see Brad, Cathie or Doug for more info.

Amsterdam Trip—Our visit to St Ann's will take place 18-20 Sep. More to follow.

Rectory Rental—The rectory is available for rental on a weekly basis as a cottage for tourists, fishermen, etc (and may be rented for shorter periods in the off season). Check out the website at cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage and please tell your friends who might need a place to stay!

Camp Hyanto—Registrations are now open. Visit <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/camp-hyanto/> to register online or to financially support Camp Hyanto in order to assist with the provision of Christian camp ministry to youth.

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Anglican Centre in Rome
Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island
The Rt. Revd Ronald Wayne Cutler

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
Parish of Wolfe Island
The Rev. Canon Chris Carr
The Rev. Gerry Moore

Companions

St Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, the Very Rev'd Neal Longe
HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the Rev'd Canon Denis Mulliner

Parish of Tyendinaga

Outreach Committee
Pray for the families of: Marguerite Maracle; Marilyn Maracle;
Sandra, Carl, Crystal & Colin Maracle; Scot & Angela Maracle; Shirley Maracle

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 7 JUNE

1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Psalms 138
Mark 3:20-35

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

Jesus came to earth to help in God's "rescue mission." In other words, Jesus came to help work out God's dream for creation. A faithful steward looks for ways through which s/he can also assist in helping to bring God's dream

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,833</u>
Shortage	\$ 626

Based on the 2015 budget and the number of identifiable givers, the following is what is required of each giver in order to meet our needs:

Weekly: \$40 Monthly: \$173