



Trail Guide – June 8, 2020:

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday celebrates the Trinity: one God in three persons. The doctrine of the Trinity was settled on at the first ecumenical council of Christendom, the Council of Nicea in AD 325. From that council came the Nicene Creed, the most widely used creed in the Church today; regularly recited in Roman Catholic worship, Orthodox worship, and in Anglican worship. It affirms the “co-essential” divinity of the Son with the Father. A revision of the creed in AD 381 affirmed that the Holy Spirit is also worshiped and glorified with the Father and with the Son.

God did a new thing in forming the early Christian community. God did a new thing giving them a deeper awareness and experience of God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

God is doing a new thing with LUMC! (see [Isaiah 43:9](#)) As you read, reflect, and respond to our scripture readings this week, see how the Holy Spirit leads in a new direction; a risky direction. What new direction is God leading you in?

Mon, 6/8 [Acts 9:43](#) – Once again, a simple observation by Luke is pregnant with meaning. What does a “tanner” do? Contact with dead animals made one “unclean”. Peter is breaking with convention. When have you been led by God to do something unconventional? How did you respond? What “new thing” is God calling for you to do? Note how Peter was named when he was first called by Jesus (Matt. 4:18-19).

Tues, 6/9 [Acts 10:1-8](#) – What does this passage tell us about Cornelius? Who was he? What was he like? How did he respond to the “unconventional” – the appearance of an angel? What do his subsequent actions tell us about him? Look at verse 2. What spiritual practices prepared him for this encounter?

Wed, 6/10 [Acts 10:9-16](#) – Do you find any similarity between Cornelius and Peter (hint: begins with “p”)? Most Christians think of prayer as an opportunity to tell God what we need, or what we want God to do. What do you think was the focus of Peter’s praying? Note: devout Jews prayed at least three times a day.

Thur, 6/11 [Acts 10:17-23](#) – Do you believe in coincidence? How did Peter’s praying prepare him for this surprise visit? Next time you pray, consider how your prayers help open you (and others) to be more aware of and responsive to God’s leading, insight, inspiration and direction. How might God be using current/recent events in your life to lead and guide you?

Fri, 6/12 [Acts 10:24-33](#) – Take a close look at what Luke is revealing. What additional insight do we gain into Cornelius’ faith? Why do you think Cornelius invited those that he invited? Do you think he may have doubts at any time that Peter would actually come? What conventions was Peter over-stepping?

Sat, 6/13 [Acts 10:39, 44-48](#) - Peter had witnessed so much already; now he is witnessing the welcome that God is extending to all people, not just the Jews. What helps us to recognize that God is at work today? What signs do we look for/have you seen or witnessed of God’s saving work?

Pray for God to “breakthrough” in our worship and in our lives, to bring new life, new hope, new opportunities to witness, welcome, grow and serve!