



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Trinity Sunday / National Indigenous Peoples Sunday,
June 15, 2025
Worship at Home

Email: northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com Website: <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus said to his disciples: “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own, but will speak what he hears and will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (*John 16:12–14*)

**P: We come to worship with open hearts and open minds,
 ready to listen for God’s voice.**

L: We come to be shaped by the Word, to follow Christ with courage, and to welcome the Spirit moving within and among us.

P: Let us worship God together—in spirit, in truth, and in joy!

Hymn 299

Holy, holy, holy

PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and The Lord’s Prayer

Triune God,

We sit here with one another, but we also sit here before you. We gather as a community, and yet each of us comes as an individual, with our own story, our own longing, our own need.

We are here to open our spirits and our hearts, to listen for your voice—in three ways, three movements, three expressions of your love. We are here to respond to you: by listening with attention, by engaging our minds and spirits, by offering what we can—our time, our resources, our praise. We long to go deeper in our communion with you—within ourselves, and within this gathered body of Christ.

But first, O God, we must confess the things that block that communion: the anger and frustration that linger within us, the jealousy and envy that quietly fester, the sorrow that shuts out hope, the suspicion and impatience that harden our hearts, the prejudice that clouds how we see others, and the quiet hopelessness that drains our strength.

In this silence, we name these things to you, O God—those burdens that prevent us from hearing your voice, and block the movement of your Spirit within us and among us. (silence)

Holy One, Holy Three, come to us now. Come to us as forgiveness, as renewal, as inspiration and hope. Come to us as comfort and joy, as faith and love. Meet us in this hour of worship. And hear us as we pray together the words Jesus taught, saying:

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 435 **All things bright and beautiful**

Children of God Moment

Prayer for Understanding

Triune God,
as we open your Word, open our hearts for the journey. Guide us by your Spirit, walk beside us through Christ, and draw us closer to you, our Creator. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Responsive Psalm 8; Romans 5: 1-11; John 16: 12-15

SERMON

Journeying with the Triune God

There is much about life that we cannot predict or control. Each day brings its own surprises, even when it seems like nothing changes. We may feel as though today is just a repeat of yesterday and tomorrow will be the same. But in truth, every day is a new step on the journey of life.

We often think of a journey as something we do physically—traveling from one place to another. But journeying also happens inside of us. It is the slow and sacred process of growing in meaning, in understanding, and in peace. It is the path we walk toward becoming more fully ourselves in the light of God’s love.

This idea of journeying is also how the Bible describes the relationship between God and humanity. From the beginning, God is portrayed not as a distant figure, but as one who walks with us. And today, on Trinity Sunday, we remember that the one true God is also three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Triune God journeys with us—above us, beside us, and within us—as we move through a world full of beauty and brokenness.

Psalm 8 lifts our eyes to the heavens. It invites us to wonder at the greatness of God. When we consider the stars, the moon, the vastness of the sky, we feel small—and yet the psalm reminds us of our sacred worth. “What are human beings that you are mindful of them?” the psalmist asks. And still, God crowns us with glory and honor.

Psalm 8 teaches us that God above us is the Creator, the source of all life. This God shaped the world with love and entrusted its care to us. We have been given a holy task: to live in partnership with creation, not as owners, but as stewards. It is an amazing privilege for fragile and finite beings like us to carry such responsibility. And yet, if we see ourselves as God sees us—created by love, for love—we begin to discover our true purpose.

So let us ask ourselves: How alive is our relationship with the God above us—the one who breathed life into us and into all living things?

We human beings are capable of great things. We build, create, nurture, and imagine. And yet, we also struggle. We fall short. We hurt one another, sometimes out of fear, sometimes out of pride. And often, instead of acknowledging our mistakes, we hide. We justify. We blame others. We try to cover our failures with silence or shame.

How does God respond to this part of our journey?

The reading from Romans tells us: God does not abandon us. Instead, God comes to be with us. In Jesus Christ, God meets us where we are. Not as a distant judge, but as a companion who shares our limitations and suffering. Jesus entered the world as one of us—vulnerable, human, and yet filled with divine love.

Through Jesus, God chooses not to condemn but to restore. Paul writes, “Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” In other words, Jesus has opened the door to reconciliation. We no longer have to be defined by our failures. Through faith, we are welcomed into God’s grace—a grace that renews us every day.

Paul continues: “God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” God didn’t wait for us to become righteous. Christ gave his life for us when we were still lost. This is grace: not a reward for the good, but a gift to the broken.

So the question becomes: Are we ready to receive this grace? Are we ready to be forgiven—even when we feel unworthy—and start again with God beside us?

Jesus walks with us not only in our strengths, but in our struggles. He is the God who sits with us in sorrow, who reaches out when we are ashamed, who invites us to step into the light of truth and healing. Forgiveness is not about forgetting what went wrong; it is about allowing God to transform it. To journey with Christ is to allow love to lead us forward, again and again.

But the journey does not stop there. As we walk with God above us and Christ beside us, we also come to know the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. God does not just surround us—God makes a home in us.

This is the promise Jesus shares in today’s Gospel. “When the Spirit of truth comes,” he says, “he will guide you into all the truth.” The Spirit listens, speaks, and leads us. The Spirit brings the voice of Jesus into our hearts and minds, helping us discern what is good and life-giving.

This is the most intimate part of our journey with God. The Spirit works within us through prayer, through reflection, through love. The Spirit reminds us of our value, encourages us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, and gives us the courage to face what lies ahead.

So we ask: Can we recognize the Spirit of God within us? Can we trust that we have everything we need to grow and to serve?

The journey of faith is not only personal—it is also communal. As individuals, we are called to grow in Christlikeness. But as a people, we are called to live in justice and truth. And sometimes this requires us to confess hard truths about our past.

For example, we cannot ignore our church's history with Indigenous peoples. There was a time when we, as Christians, misused our faith. We believed our way was the only way. We tried to change others by force. We caused harm in the name of Jesus. And the effects of this still live on in Indigenous communities across our land.

What do we do with this truth?

We must allow it to shape our journey. We begin with humility, acknowledging our limits and our wrongs. Then, with God's help, we seek a better way. The Triune God calls us to be reformed—to confess before the Creator above, to seek mercy through Christ beside us, and to listen to the Spirit within, who nudges us toward justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

This is what it means to think and live in a Trinitarian way. To recognize God in every dimension of our lives. To allow God to work in us, and through us, for the healing of the world.

So let us remember: we are never alone. The God who created us surrounds us. The Christ who redeems us walks beside us. The Spirit who sustains us lives within us.

Every day is a new part of the journey. Some days bring joy. Others bring pain. Some days are ordinary. Others are unforgettable. But on every day, in every moment, God is present.

So let us walk our journey with gratitude. Let us give thanks for every morning that dawns. And let us remain open to the ways God will continue to speak, to guide, and to bless us—individually and as a community.

May the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—go with you, strengthen you, and inspire your journey.
Amen.

Hymn 671

I heard the voice of Jesus say

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

God of the journey,
you walk with us each day. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust, our gratitude, and our desire to follow you—above us, beside us, and within us. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and for the People

Precious and loving God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
we give thanks for the beauty and wonder of who you are: Creator above us, Christ beside us, and Spirit within us. You walk with us through every step of life's journey, and your love meets us in joy and in sorrow, in strength and in need.

We thank you for this sacred time of worship, for the stillness of prayer, for the gift of scripture and song, and for the warmth of this church family. We praise you for the gifts of the earth—
for sun and rain, for blossom and fruit, for all that is growing in the world around us and in our hearts. We give thanks for this community of faith, where we share in one another's burdens and blessings, and where your Spirit moves quietly among us, renewing and restoring.

On this Father's Day, we lift our gratitude for fathers: new fathers and experienced fathers, stepfathers and grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and all who have shown fatherly care. We pray for strength and wisdom for all who nurture and protect. And we remember those for whom this day is painful—those grieving the loss of a father, those who carry difficult memories, and those who long for reconciliation. Surround them all with your gentleness and peace.

On this National Indigenous Peoples Sunday, we thank you for the First Peoples of this land—
for their rich cultures, spiritual wisdom, and deep connection to creation. We confess our church's past and the harm done through colonization, residential schools, and spiritual arrogance. Lead us toward healing, humility, and right relationship. May your Spirit guide us into truth and reconciliation.

Gracious God,
we now lift before you the members of our church family who are sick or struggling in body, mind, or spirit. Bring healing where there is pain, peace where there is anxiety, and courage where there is uncertainty.

We pray for those who have recently moved from longtime homes into unfamiliar places – Catherine Tirpko, Fran Johnson, and Mieke Mander. Grant them comfort, peace, and the joy of new beginnings.

We remember those recovering from illness or surgery, renewing their strength each day. We pray for those undergoing tests and medical examinations, to calm their fears and guide those who provide care.

And now, in the stillness of this moment, we offer our own silent prayers—for those on our hearts, for specific concerns, worries, and needs, trusting that you hear even the quietest cry. (silent pause)

God of mercy, hear our prayers—spoken and unspoken. Bless those we have named in silence, and surround them with your comfort and care.

God of the journey, you go before us, walk beside us, and dwell within us. Send us out now with grateful hearts, to love boldly, live faithfully, and trust deeply. And may we remember, in every season, that we are never alone. We pray in the name of the Triune God—Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 651 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

BENEDICTION

May God go before you, Christ walk beside you, and the Spirit dwell within you—on every step of your journey. Amen.

Sung Response- Go Now In Peace
Postlude

<p>We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Next Sunday Service, June 22, at 10:00 am at Rockway**

***A Prayerful Note for Mieke Mander:** We share with love that our dear Mieke Mander, a long-time and cherished member of our church family, has recently moved into her new home at Shorthill's Retirement Villa Community (1532 Pelham Street, Room 309). As she settles into this new chapter, let us hold her in our hearts and lift her in prayer — that her new home may be filled with peace, comfort, and friendship.

***Rockway Anniversary Mission Project – Thank You!**

Last Sunday, we joyfully celebrated 216 years of God's faithfulness at Rockway! As part of our Anniversary Mission Project, we came together in gratitude to support The RAFT, helping vulnerable and homeless youth in our region. Thanks to your generous hearts, we raised \$1,395 to bless young people in need. Thank you for giving with such kindness and compassion—living out our call to be a blessing in the world God loves. May God continue to guide Rockway's journey with hope and purpose!

***Communion at Rockway – Sunday, June 22:** Join us for Communion at Rockway as we share in Jesus' love and grace.

***Wednesday Bible study:** Diane McMillan will lead Wednesday Bible study at 10:00 AM at First Church.

***Outreach - Thursday Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

***Connect with your Minister Jacob for pastoral visits.** Reach Jacob at jacoble0501@gmail.com or 289-213-2797.