



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026
 Worship at Home

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Living Faith [our] Statement of Christian Belief)

**L. There is one true God whom to know is life eternal,
 whom to serve is joy and peace ...**

P. God has come to us,
 The Lord spoke to the people of Israel and entered into
 covenant with them and from Israel came Jesus Christ, the Son
 of God ...

**L. The church upholds and defends this truth given to the
 apostles and recorded in the Scriptures ...
 The creeds of the early church preserve this faith of the
 apostles ...**

All: Therefore, with the one church universal we believe in one
 God, eternal Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit ... Amen

Hymn 381 **Holy Spirit, hear us**

PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and The Lord's Prayer

Holy, heavenly Father, be pleased by our worship.

Divine Spirit, You alone are worthy of praise from your chosen people, and from all creation,
 for all life and being have come from You.

God, it's been an eventful week for most of us, with appointments and babysitting, with house
 and garden work and work to earn a living – *and then You give us 'more' to be busy with: to
 pray daily, to strive to live peacefully with one another, to be fair and kind -- (adapted from
 Micah 6)

Our Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to us, to help us follow your Word and example and to live in
 ways pleasing to you despite our many responsibilities.

We confess that too often our busyness controls us. Our emotions: pride, anger, jealousy etc.
 harden our heart. Telephone scams and the unpredictable times scare us and make us 'poor
 company', instead of divine encouragers! *Help us to see the **opportunities** you give us to
 show your love to others, and to recognize your love for us too! **In Your 'shepherd's heart' we
 are safe!**

Open *our hearts* and our eyes to your wonderful Presence within us and in your world, which
 shines like a light in the darkness. (from John 1)

Hear us as we also pray the prayer you first taught your disciples:

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.

Sharing The Peace of Jesus Christ

Hymn 300 **Father, we love you**

Children of God's Moment

We don't always need words or pictures to say what we want to say –
 Sometimes a 'frown' or a 'smile' or a hug say it even better!

Lesson: You know that we believe God is inside us. *Sometimes, what's inside us wants to 'come out of us' too – I mean – God wants others to know He's in us & with us all the time!

Yes – sometimes our anger comes out, or our sadness ... and others can see how we are feeling inside. *But when our wonderful smiles light up our face or when we *share* with a sister or friend ... *people can tell, there's a lot of happiness and kindness in us too! *That's God 'speaking' from inside us.

Try to share 'God inside you' as often as you can!

Let us pray together: God, let your love come out of us so others will also enjoy being with us. Bless our moms and dads, our families and school friends and our church friends when we share You! – And make your love come out of them too!!Amen

Prayer for Understanding

Lord God, Divine Inspiration and teacher of your Scriptures: Bless us with understanding and renew our faith as we read and reflect of your Holy Word.
 Amen

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Psalm 8

Genesis 1:1-3, 4a; John 1:1-5; Matthew 28: 16-20

SERMON

God With Us From A to Z

Preface to our Message: Two of our Scriptures today – the Old Testament reading in Genesis and the Psalm – point out God's Majesty; God's unique sovereignty – *Our ancestors of the Jewish faith passed this 'unique' understanding of God on to us Christians! – BUT, we also believe in God as 'three persons'. *We believe in that SAME God of Israel, but that He also revealed /reveals Himself in three clear ways or 'persons' & is still: ONE God.

Today is the first Sunday after the Celebration of Pentecost, when we celebrate or remember the giving of the Holy Spirit to his remaining 11 disciples, AND to Matthias, who was added to their

number. *OF COURSE you also remember that John, at the end of his Gospel, tells of the disciples' already having a similar experience with the risen Jesus in the locked upper room – when the risen Jesus shared the Holy Spirit with them. (ch.20) **But the Church, in its wisdom, chose to put our emphasis on the event as the Acts of the Apostles tells it in ch.2. – Rev. Lee spoke about Pentecost last Sunday.

**Also, today, this first Sunday after Pentecost, is designated as Trinity

Sunday: *On this day; on Trinity Sunday, we remind ourselves that now –after we have seen so many 'sides' of God according to God's Word in the Old and New Testament – God our Creator, the Sovereign over all creation = the Lord over 'His creation', is also one with His Son Jesus, who is both man & God; eternal, as God Himself. *That's why I like to include the reading of John, chapter 1 when I read Genesis 1! *I like to think of the ascension of Jesus from this world to heaven, as God's heavenly reunion! **On earth, Jesus taught about God; sometimes calling God his Father (eg. John 12, 14) – & sometimes, by teaching his disciples about the 'way' to God he made reference to the Jewish Scriptures (eg. Ps. 23 in John 10). *So Jesus acknowledged his roots as a Son of Israel – but, also, through His sacrificial death, freeing humanity from the sins that keep us apart from our heavenly Father & Sovereign Lord. *And he 'broke the power of death', to which the Apostle's creed refers “... and no one can snatch [us] out of the [shepherd's / Jesus' hand]. The Father and I are one.” Jesus said! (John 10) **Jesus is both human and divine since his birth here on earth.

***The nativity recorded in the Gospels and the faith of the Church universal confirm this to be true! – and this Jesus lives on today! (also stated in our creeds)

*Therefore, now, as we search our way through this life to find God – we don't need to be without hope that we will ever find the way & 'be' the way God wants us to be in order to welcome us! *Jesus' Spirit or God's Holy Spirit – for they are one & the same – *will guide us as the Spirit speaks to our heart; & as we listen to Him! *In the introductory notes to the daily Bible readings that Rev. Wally Hong sends out to members in our congregations – on Friday a week ago he wrote; “... EVEN WHEN [I] CALL ON GOD OR CHRIST, IT IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT IS BEARING WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. IT'S SO SIMPLE, YET IT MOVES ME ALL THE TIME FOR NO REASON.”

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(Pause) To begin our reflection on today's Scriptures, I would like us to accept that only Faith can make sense of what I just said. We can't prove the existence of God. We can't prove that Jesus is God's Son; let alone that he was both human & divine ie. Or that he is of the same 'nature' or 'substance' as God, as the Eastern Church's Nicene Creed puts it. *It can't be proven by science that God and Jesus reveal themselves as yet another 'person' or phenomena whom we have come to know as God's Spirit!

*It takes faith to believe all this, & yet over the thousands of years since Jesus walked this earth & taught about God HIS HEAVENLY FATHER, the Christian Church has made it an essential creed or statement of our Faith that God 'in three persons' is One God, and this God is still the Supreme being and Sovereign over all creation professed by Israel's faithful; yet our Creator is the heavenly Father of Jesus, who was born to Mary and Joseph – whom we now know as our Saviour, *and, to this day, our faith is shaped & fed and steered by God's Spirit, given to Jesus'

disciples upon his departure from this earth – who still enables us not only to accept the tenets of faith, to understand what has been preached & written about the invisible God & about Jesus' act of salvation on our behalf but the Spirit also enables us to live by God's Holy Word!

So, how is this faith in God's Trinity shaped in us – and what does it matter?

And why should we tell others about this 'complex' God? – Remember none of the world's great & ancient religions acknowledge what I've just told you. If you drive past any Muslim house of prayer you might see written on their outside wall: God is one and Mohammad is his prophet. Our conservative Jewish neighbours still feel it is blasphemy to equate Jesus with God, & none of the Eastern religions that I know of recognize Jesus as God or as A God!

(pause)

*AND, Should you decide to look up the Christian teaching about God's Trinity in Bible commentaries, you might even find that an amazing small amount of ink is expended on that essential teaching of our Christian faith – and you might wonder: WHY!?!? ** In the latest edition of our national Church newspaper called the PRESBYTERIAN Connection the article about the Doctrine of the Trinity in a Sin-Filled World by Dr. Rbt. Revington, he also states: “ ... Sometimes, ... I have found that many Christians have never been taught why the Trinity matters So, why is it important that God is one, but also a Trinity – ...?”

IT IS MY BELIEF OR PERSUASION that God, who, I was taught in Sunday School, is Spirit and therefore invisible – and cannot be proven to exist, --

*IS Revealed in God's Holy Word of Scripture, preserved for us by Prophets & Apostles, & preserved for us by the ancient traditions of priests & scribes & by teachers & ordinary people leading us in study of God's Word within the universal Church of Jesus Christ *It is hard to ignore these millennia of witnesses who reveal this God to us in all His Glory & reveal the countless ways & times & reasons why the love of this God for us manifested itself in Jesus the Saviour, and how still today, believing & following Jesus can truly be a great Joy or consolation; -- “our ONLY comfort in life is that I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ ...” says the Heidelberg Catechism of 1563. We live in a very exciting time! – yes, there is great suffering & sadness around us right now. And YES, young people, think all the science & the latest discoveries about the universe and technical inventions in our time make for exciting times & are more exciting than 'that old church stuff'! Many people, of all ages, have no time or room in their lives for this 'religious superstition'! *But it can be equally exciting, to find the thread to the kingdom of God, which is vaster than all the universes that may exist, and is waiting to be discovered by everyone & anyone!. *And to succeed in this life- time undertaking, we don't need to be 'geniuses'! **We just need to be diligent students: readers, listeners, worshipers willing to embark on an exciting journey through the Holy Scripture's stories & testimonies to God in Old and New Testament in order to appreciate and understand the lessons that have been built up from them – which will open *another world to us ie. to

*God's world **as it REALLY is!

Today, our Gospel reading from the last verses of Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus – through the women who first saw him alive again – called his disciples to meet him in Galilee – and they WENT, and they found Jesus and he was different but the same. – They recognized him, but He now shared His Father's Sovereign authority, which he passed on to them! As 'proof of the pudding' as the saying goes, we soon afterwards see Peter and other Apostles(Acts 3, 5:12f ...)

performing healings & acting in Jesus' Name, and able to remove power from people who misused Jesus' Name (Acts 8:9f) –

These stories are found in the early chapters of the Book of Acts, also known as the Acts of the Apostles. [They make for exciting reading!!]

To find this faith I've been speaking about, we might also want to see this moment before Jesus' ascension back to His divine Father, as the beginning, not the end of Jesus' Ministry throughout the world – carried out by faithful followers!

And it's not about 'preaching' damnation or hurling 'fire & brimstone' on non believers – as is sometimes done when preachers try to scare people into believing! *Instead, we are called to show & explain the Love of God to someone – who may not really understand the beauty of kindness or compassion or even family love; We are to try ourselves to be in touch with God who is inviting us to Himself; who enables us to come to Him through the love and help and healing and justice that have been proclaimed by believers in both the Jewish and Christian faiths forever!! Yes, obedience to God's Word – we might say adhering to the guidance and blessings we find in that WORD – protect us from the harms that harmful living & selfish dreaming cause – **It's essential; not restricting! Obeying God is not a 'downer'. Acknowledging we are Christian believers is nothing to be ashamed of.

Coming to baptism as Christians practice it, is not about being dipped three times in a tub or getting sprinkled with water in the Church service – *but about wanting to be seen & known as 'a child of God' – **Just as Jesus is God's child, we, who believe in Him, are also children of God. And as we 'live out ' the promises of our Baptism vows & experience the LOVE of our baptizing community!! *we experience the Trinity's heart, namely, that faith in God is fed by the Love of God!!

For many of us, our Baptism is the beginning of our journey with God – at least – as far as our faith formation is concerned, if our parents and the congregation take their vows seriously.

*But, today I'd like to 'drill a bit deeper' into the difficulty of accepting what we believe about our God as Trinity – especially if we never heard about it before!! **Can it be that everyone else is wrong about God & we are right!?

**I don't think that question is helpful – especially when we want to dialogue with people of other faiths – to learn from them what they know about God too! *More helpful might be to ask them: how they experience God??

The other day my Nancy asked me to sit with her while she watched a program about the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra. The following analogy for music was shared by one of our Canadian composers: music can't be seen or touched – but it can express what's inside us! *I thought that was a powerful word- picture of God's Spirit and God 'three in one' among and within us. Another image, often used by our Church, is that God's Word is 'meant to be poured out'. Imagine God within us wanting to express Himself through us to others – the fuller the jug or vessel is with God's Spirit & with the love of His Word and reverence for God and yearning for God's goodness, the more it naturally 'spills over' – yes??

Remember Jesus' own use of the analogy of the Spirit that rebirths us to be able to enter heaven: it is like water & wind: Jesus said to Nicodemus: "...You must be born from above. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3) (pause)

I've tried to share our faith in my own words; I've tried to illustrate the concept of God's Trinity that is believed to be necessary for *a fuller or complete understanding of 'God with us' for us Christians – **but knowing God more 'fully' is also essential for all the world, because: as we 'go from this place', Jesus' great commission – which is the name we use for the sending of the disciples into the world to do ministry as we go from this place, to our homes, to visit with one another; as we return to work tomorrow or move through our daily routines – **our inspired faith, our committed faith, our informed faith ... **transforms the world around us!

The Trinity of God can mean to us that there is never a moment that God isn't with us – as old Jonah discovered, after he tried to 'run away' from God & found himself in the belly of a great fish instead, and then as God's reluctant messenger to the Great city of Nineveh! *We are not expected to hold Doctorates in Ministry and Theology to be God's instruments & God's change agents.

*I like the passage from I John 4: “Those who say, I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.”

**Any amount of faith within us is the seedling God uses to grow faith in the world. Remember Jesus' teaching about the tiny mustard seed (Luke 13 & others) – and remember that even the *disciples, who according to Mark's Gospel 'never really understood Jesus' or who he is' – *even they asked him to teach them (Luke 11) **Jesus taught them that wonderful prayer we now call

The Lord's Prayer (pause) Look it up & see what it says about God to you? Where is God? What does he offer to do for you? How do you feel when you speak with God in prayer? Does knowing Jesus is His Son, now with God His Father in heaven, interceding for us – comfort you??) – so it's OK to say, I don't understand! To say: 'I need you to help me – my friend in the pew', 'I believe in you, but help me more, my Saviour Jesus'. 'Help my disbelief!' (Mark 9:24) Matthew's Gospel ends with that famous passage about the disciples being commissioned to do Jesus' work in the world now –

*When I neared graduation from seminary, we were invited to tell the Church where we would like to go to do this ministry. I was excited by my seminary education and by the Great Commission! I wanted to go overseas to a mission field –!?!?

*But God has a sense of humour, & the Church exercised wisdom that I only later appreciated. I was given the name of a place in Sask.: Yorkton Sask.

I went home to look up where it is. It was a relatively new church plant, but it had fallen off in membership. The two sister churches I was to serve didn't get along. They resented their new minister, me, who was clearly a city 'slicker' and certainly not of Scottish or Anglo blood! We spent a few years in a kind of 'tug of war' until they saw that I was as comfortable in a barn as in the church.

A handful of old people living miles apart constituted our small second congregation; a pioneer church. Some in the local United Church saw us as a sect because their parents hadn't joined with them in the Union of 1925. *But gradually we bonded! They accepted me when, together, we constructed the first cross for their little church – You see, the old Island churches of Scotland didn't have crosses. I accepted their sometimes-hard ways as their way of coping with their harsh lives, farming the prairies, not having a doctor at your fingertip when your wife lay dying in

childbirth or when a cow or horse seriously injured you. They coped with the tough elements in summer & winter – and laughed when they saw me come home from my pastoral visits, having gotten stuck in their muddy roads or in their unplowed, stormed in lanes –

** I read just now , for today's worship preparation, about our faith and the outsider. This little mission booklet says: the widow and the orphan and the stranger have something in common in society: they lack any support system within this society and are therefore vulnerable, subject to oppression, exploitation and discrimination – but these are directly contrary to the law of God, ... **BUT when the covenant community is willing to share the blessings that come from God with all the members of the community, regardless of rank or privilege Justice is present! Justice is present when the covenant community fulfills its obligations to God and to one another. Our treatment of others, in fact, becomes the test of God's redeeming presence & of human justice – if not, of our humanity! (adapted from Rev. Dr. Charles Hay's The Bible and the Outsider) *What a wonderful way of explaining what the disciples & today's Church is called to do & be!! That small charge had, I believe, lost its way!! My naivety, my vulnerability and my need to be loved & accepted by them reignited a divine spark in them, I BELIEVE. WOW, how God changed us all!

*So it's worth learning; yes, studying & agonizing over what we know or believe about our God! And then to ask, do I really believe this? How do I see God is in me? Is what I think God is doing through me or to me – really real & important? What difference does it really make? What difference does it make that in my prayers & in my dreams and in my reading of Scripture God actually speaks to me as God's Spirit – even though others don't hear or see Him in the same way? **I BELIEVE God CAN, in fact, be seen and experienced by all of us, just as He was experienced hundreds of thousands of years ago in His different manifestations!?

If I share my experience and God's loving message with others they cannot remain the same – even though they may not believe!?

*I recently saw a note about a Lutheran believer who traveled in Asia. He asked people there whether they knew any Lutherans. They responded: 'Yes', we call you 'people of the light'. **WOW!!

A little prayer booklet I have, begins the prayer for Monday morning this way: “Lord Jesus Christ, today I begin another week of service to You and to my neighbour. Give me the motivation & the energy I need to fulfill my vocations, occupations and responsibilities ... [it goes on:] Watch over my coming in and my going out, that I may always remember that you are always with me. ... [it ends:]

Jesus, in Your name begun be the day's endeavour; grant that it may well be done to your praise forever.”

** We know when we've sluffed off or injured someone by word or action or inaction. We know when we feel good inside because we did our best & even if no one noticed – we know! **The invisible loving, all-powerful, forgiving ever-present God says so!! and loves us for it!

Thanks be to Him whom we praise and adore! Amen

Hymn 291

Those Whose Almighty Word

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts, gathered in worship, here and at home for your world in need, be the manna that others receive as from your hand and in your Name O God. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and for the People

We've come before You, our Creator, our Redeemer and consoling Spirit, to listen to your Holy Word for us – and we pray that our hearts have been made lighter as we heard your repeated assurances that we are loved and forgiven, and that You will always abide with us – (pause)

We've also come into Your Holy Presence today, to speak honestly with You, our heavenly Father, that some days our burdens overwhelm us.

It is difficult to pay our bills, to see our children and friends struggle – and to see our worries dismissed by those who have more than we do; who care more about their political popularity OR feel superior to the common man. God, such arrogance is contrary to the humility Jesus taught us, and it is hurtful to experience it ourselves & to see others treated that way. *Therefore we pray that we may be strengthened both as we bear our own hardships and also, as we care for and help others even less fortunate than us! *May Your Spirit guide us and speak through us to set a better example.

Jesus himself taught: “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all [you have need of] will be given to you as well.” (pause) Amen (Matthew 6:33)

God, we thank You for Your answers to our prayers.

God, whether we read the newspapers, our Church paper, and devotionals; whether we listen to the news on radio or TV or on the computer – *one is led to think: that You must be saddened by our behaviour; by the behaviour of your beloved creatures.

-- more and greater conflicts are igniting throughout the world

– more innocent people are killed, injured, displaced and **pushed away** by nations and governments claiming to protect their own.

– more children fall sick because of war and conflict around them; they suffer without help, they die without parents and without the care & dignity they deserve!! (pause)

God, You see everything. Your redeeming love gave us Your Son Jesus to teach us mercy and compassion, & Jesus showed us that even in times of adversity love and divine humility are more powerful than evil! Pour Yourself out to them from within us.

Although fewer and fewer people care to learn Your Word, and rather seek other ways to survive – Your gift of love through Jesus – continues to be as 'light' in a darkening world. We pray for your congregations here & for your Church in the world to be strong in our witness. **When** we strive to be children of our Father in heaven: perfect as Jesus is; not only loving You but teaching and loving others about Your Kingdom that awaits those who will 'come' **then** your blessings will spread. This is our faith.

*And may those who don't believe, be warned of Your righteousness. (pause) Help us all to embrace the new life in Christ you offer. (Colossians 3) Amen

Hymn 357

How sweet the sound of Jesus sounds

BENEDICTION Jude 3:24&25

“Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen”
Go and serve the Lord.

Sung Response- Go Now In Peace**Postlude**

**We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional
Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Next Sunday Service, June 7, at 10:00 am at Rockway**

***Thank you to Reverend Martin Wehrmann for leading us in worship today!**

***Willing Workers Clothing Drive:** The Willing Workers Clothing Drive concludes today, but if you still have items to donate, we can accept them for one more week. Donations must be clean and in good, sellable condition. Accepted items include clothing, jewelry, accessories, handbags, shoes, linens, outerwear, draperies, fabric, yarn, patterns, and sleeping bags. Thank you for helping others through your generosity!

***Magazine Donations:** Thank you for all the donations, the amount received will help us out for a while and have already been used for some recent projects! At this time, no more magazines are needed. *“Thank you again from myself, and our mental health program!” Kristen Young*

***The RPCW will meet on Wednesday, June 3 at 1:30 PM at the church.**

*** A cleaning bee** will take place at Rockway on Tuesday, June 16 from 9AM - 12. Note the change of date from June 2. Everyone welcome.

***Monday Tai Chi & Qigong:** Tai Chi & Qigong classes are held every Monday at North Pelham. The first class begins at 1:30 p.m. and the second class at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is warmly welcome to join for gentle movement, peaceful breathing, and joyful fellowship. There is no fee to attend, as Rockway and North Pelham are pleased to support this caring ministry for both our church members and the wider community.

***Wednesdays - Bible Study:** Join us every Wednesday at 10:00 AM at North Pelham, led by our spiritual leader, Diane McMillan.

***Thursdays – Outreach 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.

***North Pelham Hall Open House, June 28:**

The North Pelham Youth Association welcomes our community to an open house at the North Pelham Hall on Sunday, June 28th from 12-5 p.m. Drop in after church for a BBQ to celebrate another step in their accessibility renovations. All are welcome!

***Celebrating with Christine & Jason:** We are delighted to share that Christine Stewart and Jason Hannigan will be married on August 1, 2026, in Hamilton, Ontario. As they prepare for this joyful day, they warmly invite our church family to join them for their Stag & Doe on Saturday, June 20 at 7:00 PM at the Wellandport Community Centre. Let us keep Christine and Jason in our prayers as they begin this new chapter of life together, and may God bless them with love, joy, and peace.

***Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care:**

If you or someone you know is facing illness, grief, or any need, please contact your elder or Rev. Jacob: **Phone: 289-213-2797; Email: jacoblee0501@gmail.com** We are here to pray and care for one another. “Carry one another’s burdens.” (Galatians 6:2)