



EXPANSIVE LANGUAGE LITURGY MOVES AHEAD

This past week, Pastor Ingrid convened a meeting with leaders from the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods to finalize a request for a proposal for an expansive language liturgy setting that would include Holy Communion. The goal is to create a complete, coherent worship service rooted in the Lutheran tradition that honors our liturgical past but reimagines it by using expansive language for God, humanity, and all of creation. David Sims and Pastor Angela are also part of this team dreaming up something wonderful!

Several weeks ago, over 100 of you responded to a worship survey. We thank you for your participation and thought that you'd like to see some of the responses we received, which will help to shape the liturgy described above:

(1) Recall a time in worship you were surprised and pleased to hear a new image for God (e.g., hen, light, wisdom, wind, rock). What did you like about the way God was described?

- This last Sunday, I think the trinitarian language was used: Speaker, Spoken, and Inspiring. Loved that.
- I like our Lord's Prayer opening: "Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, ..."
- Surprised at the limited number of positive images related to darkness. Had never thought about the ramifications of that use of language. More of a realization about how limited I was in what characteristics I give God in my life.
- Every time I hear God referred to as "she" I get goosebumps. It's such a small thing. It shouldn't be that big of a deal, but it is very different from what I grew up hearing. And every time I hear "she," I picture my grandmother, warm, nurturing, welcoming me with a plate of cookies.
- Water during baptism. It was such beautiful imagery.
- God the Father is just not enough.
- I have always liked the term "light" because I have always envisioned a voice or person projected from the clouds like ray of light.
- Images of darkness in our Advent services are the most surprising. I liked the thoughts about how God also comes to us in the darkness.
- I prefer the Native American "Great Spirit."
- As a woman, when I hear God described using the she pronoun or as mother, it is especially moving to me. I have often thought and said that it feels like it is healing a wound I didn't know I had.
- Trans Jesus.
- God as wind, because wind IS.
- Wind in the feminine. I now often think of that and feel God with a wind gust.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

READINGS

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

(2) Are there images of God that are no longer helpful for you? Are there words used in worship that are harmful to you?

- Father, King, Son, all the weird bridegroom stuff.
- That maybe somehow God dropped the bible from the sky: "This is the Word of God."
- Pronoun usage creates an image. I would prefer no use of pronouns.
- God the Father is just not enough.
- I think the Trinity should be obsolete, rather than dividing God up into parts, God is ONE: God is God.
- The images of the white bearded old man are not at all helpful, neither are the images of a wrathful, vengeful, petty, and intolerant king on some sort of distant throne.
- The punitive justice theological position.
- I don't appreciate words that are violent or warrior-like.
- Royal images of God are increasingly irrelevant. It refers to things foreign to most people's every day experience. This imagery needs to be reinterpreted.
- I'm not pleased with "Lord." Brings slavery to mind.

(3) Faith is a journey. How has your image of God changed over time?

- It embraces much more of the feminine.
- It's gotten more flexible. I'm more willing to see God in day-to-day interactions, experiences, or in those moments of wonder.
- My image of God hasn't necessarily changed. However, since there are so many religions and so many different ways to worship I don't think that any one religion is the "correct" religion.
- Broader, bigger, wider—now I believe in a big expansive Black Mama God.
- It has changed from a god who is distant and far removed to one who is closer, more accessible, more open, and one who draws me in rather than establishes a line in the sand beyond which nothing more can be known or understood.
- I have expanded my thoughts of God to include ideas from other religions. I have also taken a less literal understanding of the bible. I accept that I really can't know who God is or how to explain my faith. (more on back)

PARISH INFORMATION

(Continued from front page)

- From a God who was keeping score and wanted me to grovel to a God who is mystery, loving, gracious, mysterious, and not limited to one religion.
- I've moved from a power deity to a much more personal one through the years.
- Less "from above" and more "all around."
- Full appreciation of the wholeness of God, inclusion of all.
- For me God is present in nature. That has changed my drive to care for the earth.
- The light of the Lord gets much brighter as my age gets older; every day is a gift.
- I used to think of God as a judge first. Now, I think of God more as synonymous with love and understanding.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

The Stepping Out in Faith Working Group met for the second time. Stepping Out in Faith is the initiative to discern how to steward the extraordinary gift that the congregation received from the sale of Trinity Apartments. In the coming weeks, look for more information from this team, which includes Nicki Hines (chair), Zoe-Ana Martinez, Mike Nevergall, Libby Olstad, Tina Russell, Mark Symchych, Randy Nelson, and both pastors.

THE SEWING CONTINUES

Our mask makers are still sewing! After outfitting Trinity Apartments and Trinity on Lake Apartments, they are now working to supply local refugee resettlement agencies with the masks their clients need. Many thanks to this dedicated team.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH COUNCIL UP TO?

The Church Council met to discuss the ongoing mission and ministry of the congregation. They received the initial findings of Holy Trinity's Racial Equity Audit; offered feedback on the Statement of Urgent Concern for the Care of Creation drafted by the Caring for Creation Working Group; reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding that would be used with Pastor Doug; discussed congregational life in light of COVID-19 restrictions; and celebrated the ongoing generosity of the congregation.

VOTE IS EXTENDED

Thanks to the more than 100 of you who participated in the congregational meeting on April 26, 2020, for the purpose of extending a part-time, one-year term call to Pastor Doug Mork. Get to know more about Pastor Doug and the Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council (BDC) in this [4-minute video](https://vimeo.com/411112928) (vimeo.com/411112928). We received 99 valid votes: 98 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAINED. The vote has passed with overwhelming support. Pastor Mork will be our preacher this Sunday, May 10. If you'd like to send him a note of welcome, please email him (dmork@htlcmps.org)!

GENEROSITY

Donations to the Coronavirus Assistance Fund and to the Church's General Fund (for ongoing operating expenses) can be mailed to the church or given electronically from your [bank account](#) or [credit card](#). We thank you all for your generous giving!

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 3

The worship video for May 3, the Third Sunday of Easter can be found [here](https://vimeo.com/414143183) (vimeo.com/414143183).

PASTORAL CARE

Please don't hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (Church Office: (612) 729-8358; Pastor Ingrid: (612) 875-6679; Pastor Angela: (612) 248-9121). We will do our best to care for you from a distance. Please contact one of the pastors if your household is suffering because of COVID-19 (e.g., health, food or housing insecurity, employment changes).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Pastor Ingrid hosts a Zoom call each Tuesday from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. This conversation allows participants to see and to share with one another. The time closes with prayer. Pastor Angela holds shelter-in-place office hours each week on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and on Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. See Pastor Ingrid's Friday email for more information.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is seeking to raise \$1,500 to purchase items needed to keep our clients and drivers safe during deliveries. To help them with this effort, participate in a special fundraiser #GiveAtHomeMN, between May 1 and May 8. To donate online, go to www.givemn.org/organization/South-Minneapolis-Meals-On-Wheels, or mail a check to South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels, PO Box 17210, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Thank you!

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Mike Eull and Misty Erickson would like to thank the Holy Trinity Community for all of the kindness and generosity shown to them during their house warming. Their hearts are full of thanksgiving for your thoughtfulness.

FINANCIAL INFO AS OF MARCH 31, 2020

Budget Requirements	210,010.00
Budget Receipts	220,788.26
Disaster Relief	2,100.00
World Hunger	1,886.00
Opening Doors	2,890.00

PARISH EVENTS May 10-16, 2020

Tuesday	10:00 a.m.-noon	"Office Hours" with Pastor Angela
	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Call with Pastor Ingrid
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Zoom Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Cantate! Zoom Rehearsal
Thursday	4:00-6:00 p.m.	"Office Hours" with Pastor Angela