

The Holy Trinity / May 31, 2026

1 Timothy 6:15b-16

*“He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.”*

God who dwells in unapproachable light reveals Himself in Christ

On the Sunday of the Holy Trinity, we consider and contemplate God in the nature of His being, in particular as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; One God in three persons, three persons in One God. We do not seek to prove the Holy Trinity. We accept it as the revelation of God who dwells in unapproachable light, the majesty of His being beyond our comprehension. The word trinity may have been coined by the Church, but the concept is divinely given. This is the way God expresses Himself in scripture. In the last verses of Matthew Jesus speaks of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit saying, *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* The triune nature of God is not revealed for our understanding, just the opposite. It is revealed so that we would know that God is above and beyond every deity of human invention and human imagining. It is revealed so we would bow down in awesome wonder and give glory to God.

It is our nature as humans to seek to understand, describe and control our environment. We seek to understand the processes of the physical world, describe them and control them. We want to control our environment! We liken things to each other, so we can identify their similarities and distinguish their differences. But to whom or to what can we liken God? In Isaiah God said, *“I am the Lord and there is no other.”* The ancients likened God to the forces of nature, described them in terms of their expression and sought to control them through worship and the offering of sacrifices. Ultimately the goal was to control the gods, to bend their will to our will, so they would do our bidding. Crass idolatry, in the making and manipulation of images, may seem childish in our technological age, but in the age before science it was perfectly reasonable. If it could be seen, touched and handled, it could be manipulated and controlled. But we cannot touch, handle or control Him who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. We can see, describe and to a degree control aspects of the physical world, or at least we imagine we can, but no one can see, describe or control Him who calls all things into being and who holds them in being by His powerful word. We can only see

what He reveals. But what He reveals of Himself in the creation, in the word and especially in Christ Jesus, should cause us to fall to our knees in wonder and give glory to Him who reveals Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our Creator and Redeemer.

God is the Creator; this is the first revelation of God in scripture. Genesis chapter one verse one says, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Not natural processes, but God. Not random processes, but God by the intent of His will, the skill of His design and the power of His word. Not the forces of nature, but the forces of nature created by the force of His word. Genesis chapter one continues, *"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."* God said and there was. There was no resistance, no voices of dissent. It was accomplished immediately just as God said, according to the power of His word. There may appear from our perspective to be randomness in the universe, but from God's perspective every thing is according to His definite plan, foreknowledge and intention. This is the heart of God's self-revelation in scripture, beginning with the creation, the fall into sin, the redemption of humanity and the recreation in Christ Jesus. We cannot understand God in the nature of His being. He dwells in unapproachable light! We live in time and under time. God stands above time. We experience life as cause and effect. Life experiences God as cause and effect. God sees everything which we see as constantly unfolding, as one divinely completed effect.

God is the Creator of all things living, of human beings in particular and especially. Human beings are God's special creation. God speaks biological life into existence, but He forms the man from the dust of the earth and breathes into his nostrils the breath of life. He forms the woman from the substance of the man's flesh and gives her to be his equal partner and helper. He creates them together in His own image. His image is not as a physical representation of Himself, for God does not have flesh and blood, as Paul said to the Athenian philosophers. God is the eternal Spirit who fills and surrounds all things. He creates man and woman in His image as a reflection of His divine being participating in His intellect, love and compassion. He creates them to be His physical presence and representation in the earth, caring for His creation and for the lives of all things living. In Genesis chapter one God commands them, *"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth, everything that has the breath of life."* They are to care for the earth He created and be responsible for wellbeing of

the creatures He created. Dominion refers to the scope of their responsibility. Domination is the effect of human sinfulness, which came with disobedience. Before God incarnated Himself in Jesus, He incarnated Himself in the man and woman whom He gave to care for His earth and tend to His creation. In Psalm Eight the psalmist asked, *“What is man that you are mindful of him... Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands.”* How majestic is the name of God in all the earth! As Paul exclaims in our text, *“To Him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.”*

Which leads to the most remarkable, amazing and incomprehensible thing about the nature of God, His love. The bible is a story of God’s love for human beings. Almost Immediately following the creation of human beings the first people turn away from God in disobedience. Yet God’s doesn’t turn His love away from them or their descendants, which is really quite remarkable from a human perspective. More than anything else the scriptures are the revealing of God who dwells in unapproachable light as love; steadfast, eternal and forgiving. All that happened from the creation, to the fall into sin, to the expulsion from the garden, to the coming of Jesus into the world as the Redeemer of humanity and the Saviour of all who believe, is meant to express the unfathomable nature of God’s love. Everything happened according to God’s will for the purpose of making Him known as love. There was no oops in God’s plan, as if the sin of the first humans came as a surprise and now, He had to resort to plan B. There was no plan B. His purpose all along was to display the nature of His being in love and the depths of His love in His patience with His human creation, His forbearance and forgiveness, leading up to the greatest act of love in joining Himself to our nature in the incarnation of Jesus and the redemption of the cross.

God so loved the world that He gave His eternally begotten Son to be enfleshed within the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of His Holy Spirit. God so loved His human creation that not only would He redeem us from our sins, but He would redeem us by joining in our humanity in life under sin, the devil and the condemnation of death. God so loved His human creation that He redeemed us with the life and the blood of His Son incarnated by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. This is the effect God desired from eternity. This is the effect God set in motion at creation. God will bring to fulfillment His work of redemption in the lives of those who believe when Jesus returns and He makes His human creation and all things new.

We see God's love unfolding in time through the scriptures, leading up to Jesus and continuing today through the Church and the gospel call of salvation. God sees it as a completed action in eternity. We can't see as God sees. He dwells in unapproachable light. But we can see what God wants us to see, His love in Christ Jesus. We can't comprehend as God comprehends, but we can understand what God wants us to understand, His love in Christ Jesus. We think as humans under time in a world corrupted through sin and its desires. We can't make sense of it as it makes sense to God. But we can know that God is love. We can believe that all He does in the world and in our lives is meant to express His love and to lead us to the greatest act of His love in Christ Jesus. What can be known of God, He has made known to us in the scriptures and in Christ Jesus. God makes Himself known in part, not so we would comprehend and control, but so that we would be comprehended by God and be controlled by His love in Christ Jesus our Saviour. To Him who dwells in unapproachable light; who reveals Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, our God and Saviour, be all glory, praise and honour. In Jesus' Name. Amen