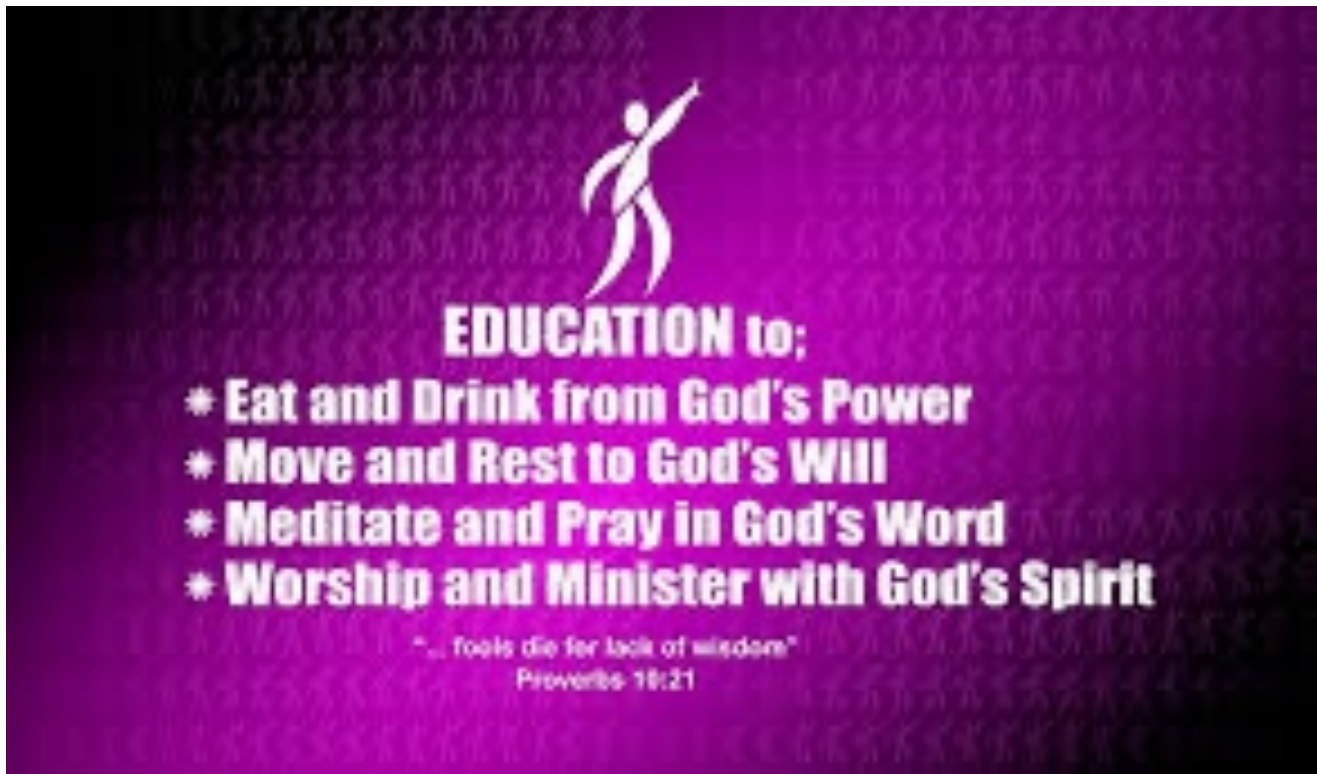

WORSHIP AT HOME

Call to Worship

O Breath of LIFE



Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
Revive your Church with life and Power.
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your Church to meet this Hour.

The Psalter

The Lord is my strength and my power;
The Lord has become my salvation.

You must be Born Again. Regeneration! Fear of God equals sin. Faith in Jesus Christ regenerates the heart-soul-mind. Be born again to faith in God's love. Regeneration takes place in a womb called Grace

There are joyous songs of victory
In the tents of the righteous: Psalms
118: 14-15

Prepare Your Mind for Worship!

- Submit to rulers and authorities.
- Prepare for any honest work.
- Speak evil of no one.
- Trust the Holy Spirit to regenerate you.
- You are justified by God's Grace.
- You are heirs of LIFE - ETERNAL

This outline comes from Titus 3:1-7

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

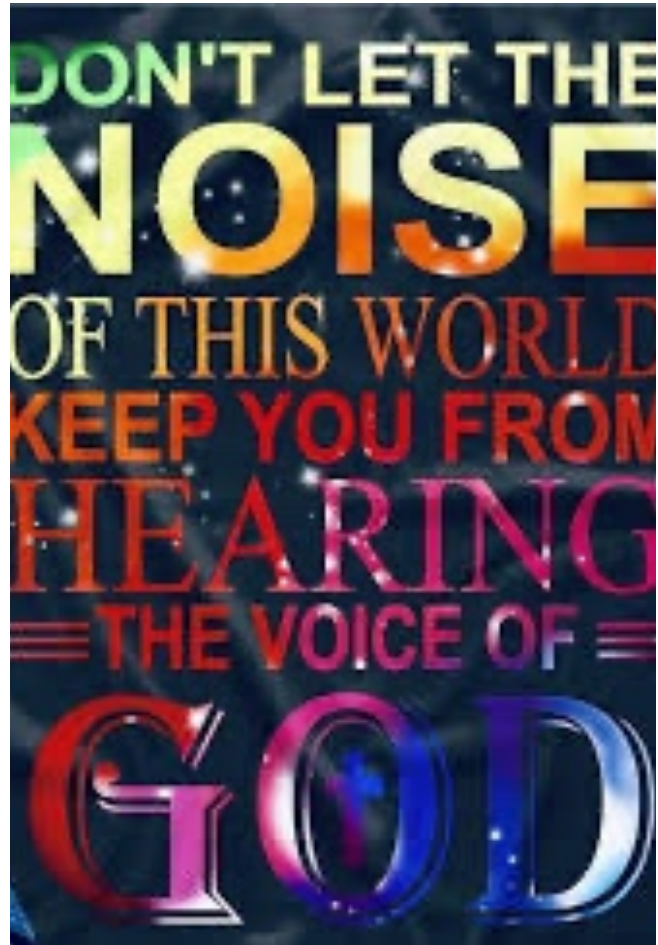
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

Be still. Quieten your
mind. Listen to your
heart. Face your
fears. Trust Christ's
mercy to comfort you.

Believing gives us something to think about. Faith teaches us to trust the one in whom we believe. Grace is an experience of the difference. suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge

ROBERT



the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

- Pray for our many leaders. Give thanks for their contribution.
- Spend a moment to be aware of the controversies, quarrels, and dissensions among the leaders of our Nation, State, Work Place, Media Sources, and Church.
- Confess your thoughts and feelings around these matters.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you out of the temptation to speak evil.
- Forgiveness sets us free from people, power, and authorities whom we let steal the peace we have with God through Christ Jesus.
- Whose kingdom shall you bring to reign on earth? God's kingdom or the rulers and authorities of this present exile?
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Ask the Father to let you be the Prayer.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father. And to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
Is now, and every shall be, wold without end. Amen. Amen.

What is the "world with out end"? See John 3:16-18

The Word

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2** to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. **3** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. **4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water^[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6** This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **8** The saying is sure.

I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. **9** But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. **10** After a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, **11** since you know that such a person is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned.

Homily

I wish I could say I am not flustered, aggravated, or at times down right angry with current leadership. I could make such claims but I would be lying. I would be lying to myself. I would be lying to God.

As I read Facebook I am reminded of why I once left it behind. Yet, I am thankful. My “friends” have a safe space to express their opinions and frustrations. Only recently did I connect Facebook with the News Media. Surely the facts regarding this current exile lay buried within the multitude of opinions.

Titus faced similar issues. The Apostle Paul offered Titus a way to confront the opinions, fact-checkers, and “fake news” seeking to put a halt to the Holy Spirit’s regeneration of our heart-soul-mind!

I suppose every generation must contend with its version of “fake news” to be regenerated by Good News! Paul reminds Titus of the Good News! “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hatred by men and hating one another; but when the GOODNESS and loving kindness of God appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regenerate and renewal of the Holy Spirit, which he richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ.

Friends the decisions made by our leaders matter. Some espouse health above all things. Others espouse a strong economy. Still others focus on constitutional rights to be the greatest commodity. Paul tells Titus to be submissive to such rulers and authorities. As I look around I ask, “What honest work must I be ready to perform?” How do you and I go about the honest work of living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ?

I can’t change the decisions made by leaders. I can state my opinions. I can vote my conscience. I may buck the authorities. I have been fired for defiance of authority. Some of my friends have spent time in jail. Many of my pastor friends lost their orders, pension, and reputation. Submitting to authorities has little to do with agreement with their policies. Submitting to their authority does free us to experience the regenerating power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

- A. I submit to the authority of the Bishop to focus on the hope I have in Christ. I try to treat Bishop Taylor and her Cabinet the very way I hope people would treat the power and authority of the Office of Elder and Pastor!
- B. I submit to the Governor of Va and Tn to focus on the hope I have in Christ. I try to treat my neighbor as I would want to be treated, especially in the midst of a pandemic of which I do not possess the knowledge to comprehend. (Well, other to know God is with us, in its pain and suffering.)
- C. I submit to the Church Council of Trinity UMC to focus on the hope I see and hear in making disciples of Christ. Budgets and Administration keeps the doors of the building

open. Discipleship based on the Good News of God's mercy and love ushers people through the doors of the building to experience God's Grace! (Grace is the Spiritual and Physical Space of Regeneration, experiencing being Born Again, Growing into the Full Image of Christ Jesus, or being sent as the Father sent Jesus.)

Paul tells Titus to avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the Law of Moses. The key word here is "avoid." These things shall always be present. The Good News is seen and heard in the things Paul calls us to "avoid." The Holy Spirit meets us in the very things we are called to avoid. The Holy Spirit leads us not into their temptation. The Holy Spirit delivers us from evil to regenerate us.

Like a baby crying upon delivery I often hear my cries. It is the sound of regeneration. It is an experience of the old fool dying to self. It is the song of the soul singing New Life. It is the sound of silence held in the eternal embrace of Peace. Peace with God. Freedom from sin. Life...on earth in a world without end!!! Amen

Baptism of the Lord

Father in heaven,
 At the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
 You proclaimed Him your beloved Son
 And anointed him with the Holy Spirit.
 Grant that we who are baptized into His NAME
 May keep the covenant they have made,
 And boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior,
 Who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
 One God, in glory everlasting. Amen

Benediction

We keep the covenant made in Christ Jesus by confessing our "foolish ways". By submitting to Christ's Mercy. By proclaiming His love. By abiding in His Grace. None of this work is by our power. It is the power of The Holy Spirit who cleanses us through the Life of Christ who suffered, died, and regenerated to prove God's LOVE. Amen