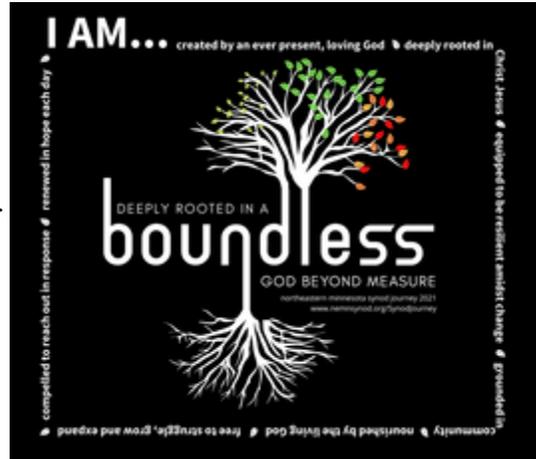


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 8, 2020
“Deeply Rooted in our Boundless God”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

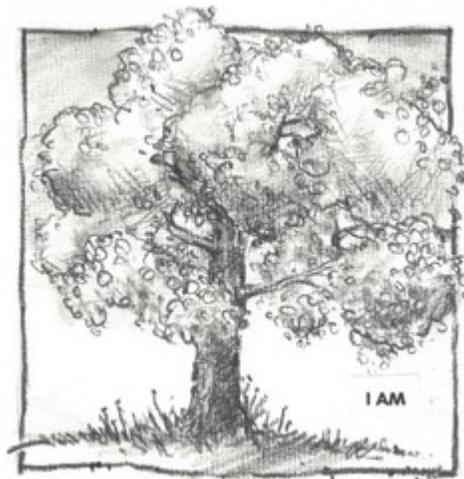
Narration: Today we join with people across the NE MN Synod around the theme “Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God”. At the beginning of the pandemic, a group of Youth Director’s asked, what do our youth really need to hear? Our answers became a creed with 9 statements that express what we long for our youth to know. And we discovered this is not only our prayer for youth but also for ourselves and people of all ages. This year our Synod will be gathering around lessons and worships focused on these nine statements and the image of trees. Our worship today moves through these nine statements and each image. This year more than ever we need to encourage one another in embracing our identity in Christ. By gathering around this creed and the images of a tree, we hope to remember together that we are deeply rooted in our boundless God.



For fun this morning, consider:

What kind of tree best represents your image of yourself? For example: Are you more like an evergreen or a weeping willow? In full bloom or sprouting a few branches? How about the people around you?

I AM...



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have been planted in all our diversity, rooted in Christ Jesus as children of a boundless God. God, remind each of us:

P: **I AM**

Created by an ever-present, loving God

Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus

Equipped to be resilient amidst change

Grounded in community

Nourished by the living God

Free to struggle, grow and expand

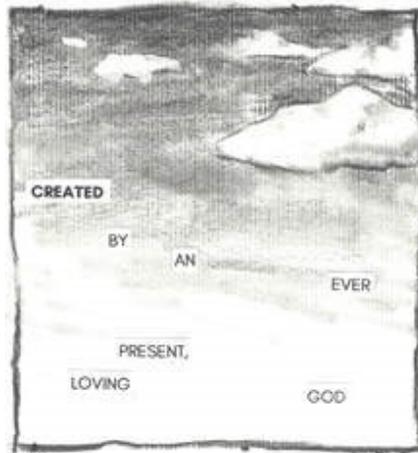
Compelled to reach out in response

Renewed in hope each day.

Narrator: There are many ways we each complete the statement “I am”. We define our identity: by what we like to do, our gifts, our weaknesses, our personal appearance, our personality traits, by our relationship to others and the groups we are part of. Most importantly we find our identity in Christ. While many of the ways we identify ourselves shift and change throughout our lives, our identity in Christ does not change. Your identity is deeply rooted in our boundless God. In our baptisms - our name is spoken and we are marked with the cross of Christ forever, child of God.

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **CREATED BY AN EVER-PRESENT, LOVING GOD**



Narrator: The air, while invisible to the eye, sustains a tree. While not always visible to the eye, God’s presence sustains us. You **are** created by an ever present, loving God. Take a full deep breath in through your nose and then blow it out long and slow through your mouth. You can’t see the air which is filling your lungs and rushing out of your mouth but you sure can feel its presence and impact. You are being created and filled with the breath of God, a good reminder of God’s constant presence creating and sustaining you. We take a moment to do a breath prayer. On your next big breath in through your nose, think the words “I am filled..” and as you blow your breath out through your mouth, think “with all that God is”. These are the words from our theme scripture text you will be hearing later. “I am filled...with all that God is”. As we take a few deep breaths with these words imagine the fullness of God filling you and blowing out into the world.

BREATH PRAYER

Breathe in: I am filled...

Breathe out: with all that God is.

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

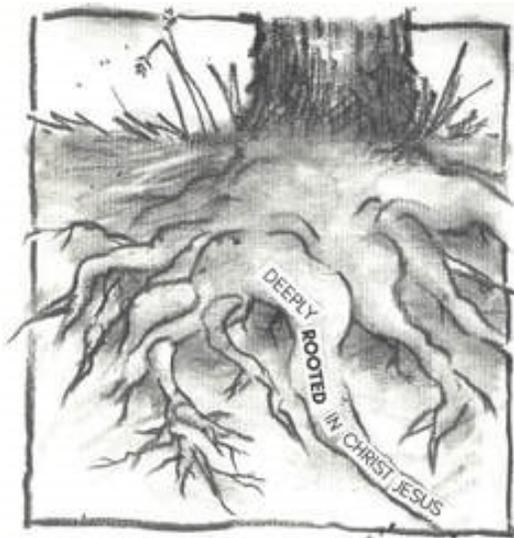
P: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *“Open the Eyes of My Heart”*

<https://youtu.be/idQ1n3cdgfo>

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **DEEPLY ROOTED IN CHRIST JESUS**



Narrator: Trees stand upright, despite strong winds and running waters because of their deep roots. Storms and strong waters rise within and around us. We invite God to root us again:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

P: **Amen.**

L: Holy One,

P: **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

P: **Amen.**

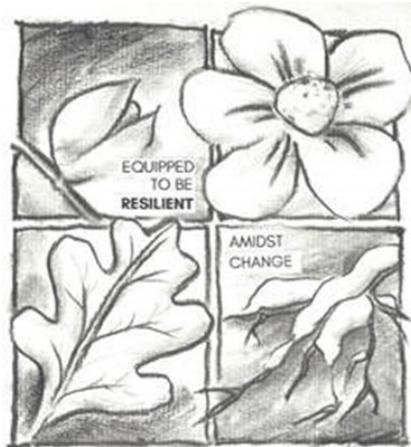
PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray,

Boundless God, no matter where we go, no matter who we are with, no matter what is happening in our world, you give us roots in Christ Jesus. Open our eyes to see your promised presence and help us feel our roots holding us in Christ's endless love. Amen.

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **EQUIPPED TO BE RESILIENT AMIDST CHANGE**



Narrator: Our youth have been using this creed and curriculum the past four months. Each time we gather we will take time to check-in with one another. We use the image of the tree, moving through the seasons to guide our sharing. A tree is designed to weather all seasons. It adapts to the harsh winters, grows in new ways in the spring, thrives in the summer heat, and changes in the fall. It is resilient. As we share our check-ins, we remember we are equipped to be resilient amidst the change in our lives. What season best represents how you are currently feeling right now?

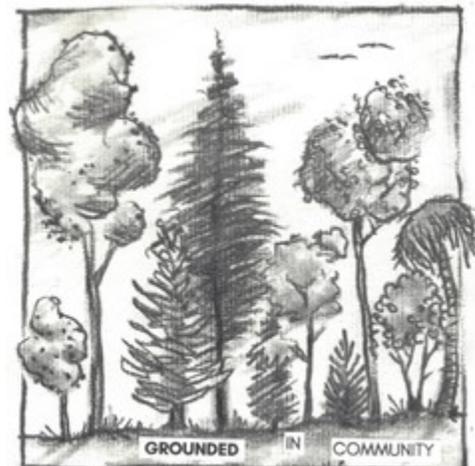
CHILDREN'S TIME: Feel your Roots – Praying for our Youth

SONG: "I Am" Group VBS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-urHot6CtaQ>

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **GROUNDING IN COMMUNITY**



Narrator: A tree does not stand alone in the forest, but is surrounded and supported by other trees. Because trees stand together they are more able to weather the changing seasons and unexpected storms. Likewise, we do not stand alone but are grounded in community in which to support one another.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

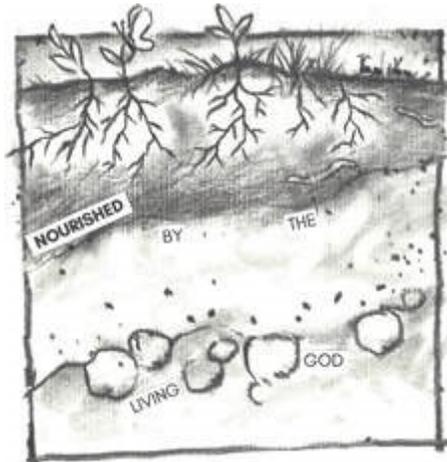
L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

(Sharing of the peace in the Facebook comments and within the Zoom community)

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **NOURISHED BY THE LIVING GOD**



Narrator: Just as a tree is planted in and nourished by the soil, we are nourished by and live in the Word of God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 139

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

(continued on next page)

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

“DEEPLY ROOTED” SCRIPTURE TEXT: Ephesians 3: 14-21

¹⁴I kneel in prayer to the Father. ¹⁵All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from [God]. ¹⁶God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that [God’s] Spirit will make you become strong followers ¹⁷and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in [God’s] love. ¹⁸I pray that you and all of God’s people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. ¹⁹*I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.* ²⁰⁻²¹I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. [God’s] power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24: 13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

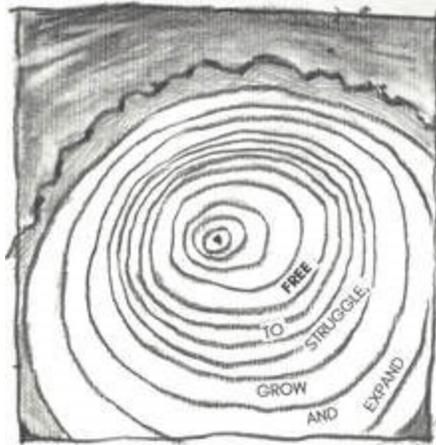
MESSAGE: Shivon Miller

SONG: “Rooted” Kerrie Roberts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9vtRgjL2c0>

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **FREE TO STRUGGLE, GROW AND EXPAND**



Narrator: When you look at the trunk of a tree, you can see rings representing each year of growth. You can see in the rings that there are times the tree has struggled. You can see periods of limited growth and even evidence of injury. The rings also show times of quick expansion and growing depth. God invites us to struggle with and expand our wonderings about scripture and our faith. What questions do you have after hearing the Word today? What are you left wondering?

Within our times of struggle and growth, we continue to gather as a community and confess our faith together.

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come to judge the living 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.

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: **COMPELLED TO REACH OUT IN RESPONSE**



Narrator: God loves us and frees us to love God and others. A tree that is firmly rooted sprouts branches that reach up and out. As God’s people, firmly rooted in Christ, we are compelled to reach out in love to God, to one another and to all of God’s creation.

We reach out in worship with our offerings and prayers.

THE OFFERING

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly. Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

OFFERING SONG: “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand” Norton Hall Band

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVE-xXFDOwg>

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and our world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and song. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

L: Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship. Sustain all those who help us to worship at this time. Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the autumn beauty of your earth. At this change of seasons, give the animals what they need for survival. Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Peacemaker, give peace to our conflicted nation. Quell all attempts at violence and halt the desire for retribution. Cure our nation from prejudice of every kind. Teach us how to abide together as one diverse people. Restore families and friendships torn apart by political differences. Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Sovereign, grant that all newly elected officials of government will work faithfully for the common good. Give them wisdom, honesty, and humility. Illumine their convictions with a spirit of cooperation. Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Protector, bless the observance of Veterans Day. Give to all the armed forces a dedication to defend the common good. Heal the wounds, both physical and emotional, experienced by active and retired service members. Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Healer, bring health and wholeness to those who are sick, those who live with chronic pain, and the thousands who daily contract COVID-19. Console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Protect those living in resettlement camps. Uphold medical care workers, especially in third-world countries. We pray especially for those we name here before you. . .

A brief silence.

Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Beloved, form us into a people close to your heart, and receive now our silent petitions:

A longer period of silence.

Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

Holy and immortal One, we remember before you all who have died in the faith. At the end, bring us with them to be with our Lord forever. Hear us O God,

P: Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers for the sake of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen.

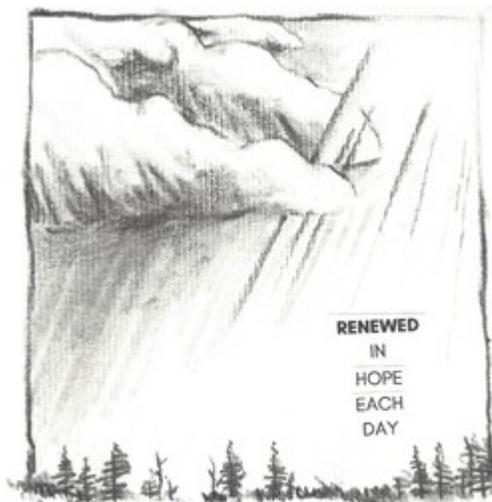
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

L: Let us say together, I AM...

P: RENEWED IN HOPE EACH DAY



Narrator: The rains come and water the earth, providing for the trees. The clouds clear and the sun comes out, bringing light and new life. Marked with the waters of baptism, finding hope in the Son, we are blessed and sent forth in and for the world God loves. In our blessing today I am going to read the whole creed with it's 9 phrases. I want you to consider which phrase you most need to hear today.

BLESSING

You are deeply rooted in our boundless God. May God reassure you that:

you are created by an ever-present God,
deeply rooted in Christ Jesus,
equipped to be resilient amidst change,
grounded in community,
nourished by the living God,
free to struggle, grow and expand,
compelled to reach out in response,
renewed in hope each day.

May God plant the words you need to hear today within your heart.
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: “My Feet are On the Rock” By I Am They

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uYiHiJTn6Y>

DISMISSAL

Our boundless God hold you in hope until we gather again.
Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

