

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Text: Reginald Heber

Tune: NICAEA - John B. Dykes



This new world of online church services has been an awesome way for local churches to reach new people, or reach those who are members but cannot attend in person. I look at online church services differently. When I hear about a church, one of the first things I do is go to their website and see if they stream their services and then I look for past services to watch. Mainly, I am focusing on the music. I am always interested in what other churches are doing musically speaking. I say all of this to share this story. A while back, I looked up a church in Greenville, NC, St. James UMC, because I wanted to view one of their services. My main professor from ECU is the music director there. I was watching one of their services and as they prepared to sing the opening hymn that day (*Holy, Holy, Holy*). Dr. Franklin shared something along these lines, "Please stand and join us as we sing together, *Holy, Holy, Holy*." One of the great hymns of our faith in which we proclaim together God's Holiness, declaring that He is so holy, that we need to say it three times!" Those weren't his exact words, but it was something like that. Since then, every time I hear of or think about that hymn, Dr. Franklin's words come to mind.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning,

our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

If you follow the liturgical closely, you will know that Trinity Sunday is coming this month on May 26, 2024. A quick "wiki" search will tell you that Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Holy, Holy, Holy, is the perfect hymn to use in celebration and recognition of this special day within the church year. One, because of its repeated phrase of "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" but also because it recognizes the Trinity in the first and last stanza, "*God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*"

*Holy, holy, holy!
though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
only Thou art holy,
there is none beside Thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.*

Over the past few weeks, the choir and musicians have been putting together an arrangement of "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" to be used as the opening hymn of praise on May 26. The arrangement is by Benjamin Harlan, who is a well-known composer, arranger, and professor.

I hope that you will be able to join us in person (or online!) on May 26, and sing out with gusto as we sing, *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

New Sunday Morning Times

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship
(Coffee & Doughnuts)

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. - NBCU

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

After much consideration, a plan to implement a schedule change starting Sunday morning **May 5, 2024**. We hope this will provide an opportunity for individuals not presently attending NBCU to do so and add a "cushion" in the schedule for worship preparation (especially for the choir and musicians).

Items of the Month **May**



- Canned Ham
- Dried Beans
- Canned Greens

NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

THE BYLINE

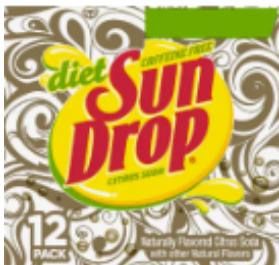
MAY 2024

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FROM THE PASTOR

In my discussions on Branding during April and May, I asked that we consider our **Identity**. My main question is, *How do they see us?* This provides the impetus to delve deeper as a church in the Nashville community. When someone mentions a specific product widely used by consumers, an image pops into our heads often—a logo! This is an association game used by companies and organizations to equate quality with their brand and *Brand Identity*.

My favorite beverage is widely known as Diet Sun Drop, “the down home taste that picks you up!” My relationship with this delicious nectar began as a child on a tobacco farm in Southeastern North Carolina. I remember break time coming each morning around 10:00 a.m. after an early start. Daddy would take the orders from the workers and head to Peanut Newman’s Store or Collier’s Country Store. The store choice depended on our location that day amongst the tobacco fields.

My best memories are of the times I had the opportunity to ride with Daddy to the store and assist in gathering the break items. I would run around the store grabbing nabs, honeybuns, and candy bars and carefully pull the drinks from the coolers. Of course, the soft drinks were in glass bottles, and looking at Sun Drop was a sight to behold. The green glass, my favorite color, held the golden nectar and called to you with pieces of citrus floating in plain view.

The refreshing first swig from the bottle was a sensation to the senses and almost made me forget the tobacco fields that awaited my return—almost! I still look forward to those first sips of Diet Sun Drop each day and fully agree with one slogan, “Refreshing as a cup of coffee,” because it is my coffee, even though I now imbibe the caffeine-free version. My love of this beverage does not simply come from the refreshing taste; it is filled with connection to moments throughout my life.

Even as I ask that we look deeper, one identity association should come to mind from which we will build a further identity for Nashville Baptist. Are we seen in the **Image of Christ?** Where have we stumbled if those around us do not see our Savior when they see us and imagine his image? The role of believers stems from the one in whom we believe. The church accepts a critical responsibility, and in our continued time together on Sundays, I am looking at five functions/purposes—*Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, Worship, and Fellowship*.

I propose that all we do will fall under one of these five functions, which will provide a focus and guide on our journey as a church family. Let go of the personal agendas and demands so that we might become Christ to everyone. If the world does not see us as Christ, *How do they see us?*

Looking into June

VBS
June 10-14

Graduation Sunday
June 16

Red Cross Blood Drive - June 17

Upcoming Events

Remember & Honor
MEMORIAL DAY

THE NBC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

Nashville Baptist CHURCH

Service Time: Sundays | 10:30 a.m.
Join us in worship either in person or via live stream.

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9 am - 2 pm
Friday - closed

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