

## Trinity Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

Welcome

### Call to worship

Giver of all goodness you have given us peace and joy

And all that is good and precious in creation

We come together today, to give our thanks and praise

In the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit . Amen

### First song – Great is your faithfulness 154

Early reflection Trinity Sunday – is the day we recognise that we know God's faithfulness in many ways. We know of God's faithfulness and love through God , through Jesus and through the Holy Spirit.

There are many images for the Holy Trinity, traditionally – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

They are of the same substance – Love !

A bit like water, ice and vapour – same substance but different forms .

What are your favourite images for the Holy Trinity?

In the bible there are stories about how Jesus was with God in the beginning ( John 1:1-5 and 14: 1-20 ) and so too the Holy Spirit ( Genesis ( 1:1-2 )

I came across this image this week. This got me thinking !!



Another image for the Holy Spirit is as God's wisdom ( Proverbs 8 :22-36 ). In ancient Israel ,God's wisdom was known as Sophia.

### Thanksgiving Prayer

Holy, Holy , Holy God, three in one and one in three,

We thank you for your creation ,

We thank you for Jesus our saviour

And the Holy Spirit, our comforter, helper and wise counsellor.

Help us to listen Lord

And respond in service

As a loving community, working together in your love. Amen

### **Hymn 2 Tis 421 Where the Spirit is**

#### **Bible reading Matthew 28 :16-20**

This passage in Matthew's gospel , unites all churches in God's mission.

The theme of discipleship is clearly annunciated. The risen Christ says we are to " make disciples of all nations. "

The first step is to "go".This means that God's mission involves us getting out of our comfort zones and "going out " amongst neighbours and strangers and building relationships.

How comfortable are you with this ?

The second step is "baptising them". In other words, developing relationships and inviting people to "come along and see". Developing relationships involves, listening, accepting people where they are on life's journey and showing them God's love and welcome. In this way trust develops and a sense of belonging develops.

Later people may then like to become a member of the church and accept the invitation to be "baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit "

However it is important to remember that healthy, respectful relationship is at the heart of this command.

Jesus called his disciples friends and told them everything he knew from his Father and so shared everything with them .( John 15:9-17 .

The third step is “teaching them to obey everything Christ has commanded” – namely to learn to Love God and your neighbour as yourself.

This is not easy , but as Jesus has told us, those who give up their lives for the sake of the gospel will find life in all its fullness. If we live only for ourselves, we will not find the fullness of life Jesus has promised .

How has this brief reading spoken you today?

You are welcome to give me a call if you would like to talk about it.

I pray we will trust the Lord as we continue to be a vital and missioning church in the Love of God, the hope of Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

I found this further reflection on the Trinity that I recommend to you.

*Reflection The God of Jesus Christ exists entirely for, with, through another. The law of personhood is that the only way one “has” oneself at all is by giving oneself away. —Catherine Mowry LaCugna [1]*

What if we actually dropped into this Trinitarian flow and let it be our major teacher? Even our very notion of society, politics, and authority would utterly change, because most of it is still top down and outside in.

Trinitarian theology says that true power is circular or spiral, not so much hierarchical. It’s here; it’s within us. It’s shared and shareable; it’s already entirely for us. We have the power of “the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). God’s Spirit is planted within you and operating *as you!* Don’t keep looking to the top of the pyramid. Stop idolizing the so-called “Top 1 %.” There’s nothing worthwhile up there that is not also down here. Worst of all, it has given much of the world an unnecessary and tragic inferiority complex.

Trinity says that God’s power is not domination, threat, or coercion, but of a totally different nature, one that even Jesus’ followers have not yet adjusted to. If the Father does not dominate the Son, and the Son does not dominate the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit does not dominate the Father or the Son, then there’s no domination in God. *All divine power is shared power.* This should have entirely changed Christian religion, politics, and relationships.

There’s no seeking of *power over* in the Trinity, but only *power with*—a giving away, a sharing, a letting go, and thus an infinity of trust and mutuality. This has the power to change all relationships: in marriage, in politics, and even in international relations. YHWH already tried to

teach such servanthood to Israel in the four “servant songs” in Isaiah (42-53) in order to train them in being “light to all nations” (Isaiah 49) but their history predicted what Christianity perfectly repeated: we both preferred kings and empires instead of any suffering servanthood.

### **Third song Holy Spirt come confirm us TIS 413**

Prayer- Please pray for those on your heart at this time.

You might like to meditate using your breath.

You may like to repeat the word “ Maranatha” to anchor you in stillness or you may like to repeat this short phrase

“In the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit”

### **Lords prayer**

#### **Blessing Song May our God**

**May Our God, God of love, Bless and keep you forever**

**Grant you peace, perfect peace Courage in every endeavour.**

**Now go forth in joy and love, and in peace forever,**

**May Our God, God of love, Bless and keep you forever.**

### **Benediction**

We are a community of God’s Hope

We have been given all the gifts we need, to be the people we are called to be .

We have the truths we need

We have the love we need

We have the joy we need

We have the hope we need

We have the community we need .Let us go out into the future, with faith, love and hope, through Jesus Christ , in the power of the Holy Spirit

Amen. Amen Amen Rev. Frances