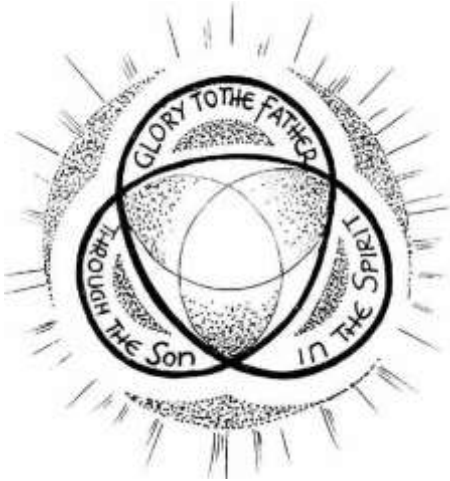


# Our Sunday Service Together

## Trinity Sunday June 7th 2020



*Almighty and eternal God, revealed for all time and to all the world as one God, yet three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, living in the unity of love. We now join the Saints of the ages, together yet apart and 'make a Spiritual Communion, rejoicing in the grace of God come to us in fullness through Christ our Lord and Saviour, by the will of the Father and through the presence of The Spirit with us, now and for ever.*

### An Acclamation for Trinity Sunday

All: Alleluia, alleluia! It is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord. All that you reveal of your glory, the same we believe of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, without any difference or inequality. We, your holy Church, acclaim you, Father of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. Three Persons we adore, one in being and equal in majesty. Alleluia!

Hymn We have a Gospel to proclaim

### Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body  
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Our Confession

*God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

*Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ*

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever. Amen.

## The Psalmody    Psalm 86.8-13 *We say the psalm aloud*

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, nor any works like yours.

All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wonderful things; you alone are God.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name for evermore;

For great is your steadfast love towards me, for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Scripture Reading Isaiah 40.12-17 and 27 -31

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup> Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counsellor has instructed him?

<sup>14</sup> Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice?

Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup> Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.

<sup>16</sup> Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering.

<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Gospel Matthew 28.16-20

*Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.*

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.*

## A Reflection for the day

'Are we there yet?' For those gathering with Jesus on the mountain top I wonder if this was their hope, was this to be the moment when he would usher in the Kingdom, fulfil his ministry, liberate them as both nation and individuals. As they gather they worshipped, after all that is the chief purpose of humanity. As they worshipped some had doubts; that is what it says 'isn't it? I wonder if we read the passage like this, or maybe we read some doubted and some worshipped. Well the words do say that all worshipped him, but some had doubts.

The Western Churches have for centuries been looking to define and announce they have arrived. Most of our denominations exist following disagreements about either the direction of travel or about the place in which the camp has been pitched. And the need to be right and to be firm in thought and in purpose means there is no room for doubt in the worship of the people. Each has had need to define and declare how right they are, and conversely how wrong others are. And with this comes teaching of what is right and proper and what is not, and with this there follows the need to define who is a part of the right and proper way. Membership becomes assessed and approved, faith because categorised and ultimately judged by the organisation.

Isaiah sounds like someone asking questions of a self-assured, a self-adjudged organisation and its people at a time when it looks like things are changing. When possibly God is active changing things and as with all change there now are questions and doubts. Amidst this Isaiah says, I don't know, he says I am not privy to the full depths of God's works and mind on matters. I am not fully sure what God is doing but I am sure of something, God is to be trusted. God is to be lent on, his wisdom sought out, his salvation encountered.

'Are we there yet?' Well as the disciples worshipped, some with doubts amidst their worship, Jesus answers the question, 'no!' The work continues, the journey is not over, the kingdom has not come, but is at hand. 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.'

'Go' certainly suggests we are not there yet. Go and make disciples (followers), baptize them in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – make them full and complete members of the kingdom, and then teach them my ways. Baptize and then teach! I wonder how the churches of the West, in their need to be right, to banish all doubt in worship may have strayed from this principle.

Alan Hirsch once said 'if you want to learn how to play chess take the queen off the board, then you will get to know how all the other pieces work the best'. It could be argued that the recent pandemic has seen the 'queen' piece of many churches taken from the board, Sunday worship. But with it removed the work of people's daily faith has been found and seen; and not just in those who are part of a defined congregation. Big acts and expressions of faith and small doubt filled attempts to worship in new ways have blossomed across the land.

If they show us one thing it is that we none of us can say our church denomination has arrived. But more, it calls us to be people ready to venture each day with God, Father, Son and Spirit, to offer our lives in worship, even if it is worship filled with doubt (trust me mine often is). We none of us know just how things will look or be when we come out of the shadows of this pandemic over the next 5 or 10 years, but one thing is for certain God is and will be though it all. And whilst other things may cause me to have doubts I know simply because God was yesterday, is today and will be tomorrow and beyond I will worship with my heart, mind, soul and strength.

'Are we there yet?', no, so let's enjoy the journey!

# The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

## Prayers *We make our intercessions*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

Father of heaven, whose love profound a ransom for our souls has found:  
We pray for the world, created by your love, for its nations and governments ...  
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.  
*We plead before your throne in heaven.*

Almighty Son, incarnate Word, our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:  
We pray for the Church, created for your glory, for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...  
Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.  
*We plead before your throne in heaven.*

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath the soul is raised from sin and death:  
We pray for families and individuals, created in your image, for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...  
Breathe on them the breath of life and bring them to your mercy and grace.  
*We plead before your throne in heaven.*

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son, Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:  
We pray for ourselves, for your Church, for all whom we remember before you ...  
Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,  
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,  
as we worship you, saying,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

## A Prayer during the Covid-19 Pandemic

All: Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Collect

All: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the  
Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us*

All: 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, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me, Christ over me;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me.  
Amen.