



Service for Trinity Sunday, 7th June 2020

A warm welcome to all who share in worship with us today.

INTROIT (sung by the church choir, recorded in 1998)

Sanctus from "Little Organ Mass" – Haydn

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Greetings dear Friends, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Today is **Trinity Sunday**; the Sunday we especially think about God as Trinity:
God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We are also going to share Communion this morning. So I invite you to go and get some bread and some wine or fruit juice and place it beside your favourite chair. Even though some of the Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted a little, the last ten weeks have been a time of staying in and we are still not able to meet together as church; so, in a moment of quiet, I invite you to think about your friends and loved ones, to imagine their dear faces around you as we prepare for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us pray.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

HYMN: Holy, holy, holy

1 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!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea,
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before
Thee,
Who wast and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide
Thee,
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not
see,
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth
and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber

If you would like to sing this hymn, click the icon on the webpage for organ accompaniment.

PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Mysterious Spirit of God, we have so many images to try to understand you.

You are the wind that stirs the trees and drives storm clouds across the sky.

You are the fire which brings warmth and light, inspiration and healing.

You are the water that quenches our thirst, refreshes and cleanses us.

You are the gentle dove of peace and blessing and comfort.

But you are also the still small voice which nudges our conscience,

the discomforting one who challenges our complacency,

the power which confounds our prejudice and injustice.

Mysterious Spirit of God, come to us now, guide our prayers,

lead our lives, make your home within our hearts.

We offer our prayers in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of Mercy, we have not always lived as Jesus commanded.

We have hurt you and our neighbours by the way we have behaved.

We have been unkind and selfish, jealous and proud.

We have ignored the promptings of your Holy Spirit.

Forgive us, we pray; restore us, remake us, reconcile us.

We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To all who turn to him he says, "Your sins are forgiven."

He also says, "Follow me". Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

In John's gospel, chapter 14, during the Last Supper, Jesus spoke to his disciples.

We hear some of those words now.

"If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

When I go, you will not be left alone; I will come back to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and because I live, you also will live. When that day comes you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me, just as I am in you.

Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. My Father will love those that love me; I too will love them and reveal myself to them. I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you. Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give to you.”

Thanks be to God for these words.

REFLECTION

These are some of the last words which Jesus spoke to his disciples before he was murdered on the cross. These are words to comfort and console them, words of reassurance: “when I go, you will not be left alone.”

Here, very specifically, Jesus talks about the “Holy Spirit”, who will stay with his disciples forever. God, the Father, will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name, to teach them everything and remind them of all that Jesus has told them.

When Jesus is no longer physically with his disciples on earth, the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Trinity, will be with them for ever. We are Jesus’ disciples and the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Trinity, will be with **us** forever.

I love the image of the Trinity. As I read Jesus’ words, I have a sense of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit being a team: a family, a community, three parts of a relationship where love is the bond which holds them together. The Three, the Trinity, have a mutual purpose: to bring human beings into that relationship of love, where Jesus’ teaching will be the way they live their lives. How wonderful that we can be brought into that Circle of Love!

We have been living in a time when people have been “self-isolating”, “social-distancing”, “staying at home”, being in “lockdown”. Even though there is an easing of restrictions, we are still aware of how our relationships have been affected. Just as the disciples did not want to be left alone, we find being alone, cut off from those we love, can be lonely and distressing. How we have longed to be with our loved ones and friends!

Jesus’ words to his disciples at the Last Supper can bring us comfort, consolation and reassurance too. We can know that the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Circle of Love, will be with us for ever, guiding and inspiring us into the future, into new ways of being God’s people. That is Jesus’ promise to us. Thanks be to God.

Some words of John Bell....

God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven’s sight;
so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light. **Amen.**

A MOTET by Thomas Troman, sung by the church choir (recorded in 2015)

*Grant us Thy peace, O God of peace and love,
Who dwelleth in the shining worlds above.
Grant us, with Thee for ever to abide,
Where is no night, nor falling eventide.
’Til that day break and earth’s dark shadows cease,
Lord God of peace and love, grant us Thy peace.*

Revd Canon Dr Bruce Payne

HOLY COMMUNION

We come now to share in communion. Let us pray.

Gracious God, Giver of every good gift.
We bring you bread and wine for our communion,
lives and gifts for your commonwealth of heaven,
all for transformation through your grace and love
made known in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We hear the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, as recorded by Luke.
Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and said,
"Take this and share it among yourselves.
I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes."
Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me."
In the same way, he gave them the cup after supper, saying,
"This is God's new covenant sealed with my blood,
which is poured out for you."

Let us bring our prayer of thanksgiving. Let us pray.

Creator God, we thank you for the gifts of life and the wonder of the universe;
for starlit nights and the ever moving seas; for mighty oaks and dragonflies;
for the laughter of children and the special wisdom of the very old.
Jesus, our Saviour, we thank you for your compassion and tenderness;
for your extravagant love, your healing touch and your faithfulness.
Spirit of Truth, we thank you for the way you come into our lives,
teaching and guiding, comforting and inspiring, admonishing and restoring.
God of Trinity, we thank you that we have bread and wine to share this day. **Amen.**

Jesus took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me."
In the same way, he gave them the cup after supper, saying,
"This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you."

So now, with Christians everywhere, take the bread and the wine, as Jesus did.
Eat, drink and remember. God comes to you in broken bread and poured out wine.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, as we have broken bread and held it, we offer to you...
the brokenness of those who live and struggle with hunger and disease,
the brokenness of those who are excluded,
the brokenness of communities and neighbourhoods,
the brokenness in relationships between nations,

the brokenness in household and personal relationships,
the brokenness in relationships between different faiths,
the brokenness in relationships between Christian denominations,
the brokenness within congregations,
the brokenness we carry in our own bodies,
the brokenness we know when death tears away our loved ones.

As we have held and offered you the broken bread,
Help us to keep trusting that you are here in the midst of all our brokenness.
Bless the brokenness of the world and all its broken people,
Bless people and situations which we especially think of today. *(Time of quiet)*
Bless them and bless us.
Make us signs of resurrection. Strengthen us to share in your work.
Feed us now and evermore, and feed the world so that none may go hungry
and all may know welcome and hospitality and belonging.
We pray in the power and overflowing love of the Trinity. **Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession based on words by Inderjit Bhogal

HYMN: Our blest Redeemer

Our blest Redeemer, ere he breathed his tender, last farewell,
a Guide, a Comforter bequeathed with us to dwell.

She came in semblance of a dove, with sheltering wings outspread,
the holy balm of peace and love on earth to shed.

She came in tongues of living flame to teach, convince, subdue;
all-powerful as the wind she came, as viewless too.

She came sweet influence to impart, a gracious, willing guest,
while she can find one humble heart wherein to rest.

Spirit of purity and grace, our weakness pitying see;
O make our hearts thy dwelling-place, and worthier thee.

Harriet Auber (alt.)

If you would like to sing this hymn, click the icon on the webpage for organ accompaniment.

BLESSING

God, in your mercy, transform your creation.
Jesus, in your mercy, transform your humanity.
Spirit, in your mercy, transform your Church.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, transform each one of us.
And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giver,
Be among us and upon the peoples of the world. **Amen.**