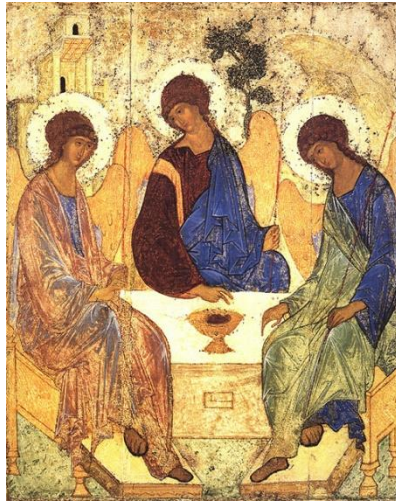


Trinity Sunday

Sunday 7th June 2020



Today we give thanks for and hold in our prayers Holy Trinity Church Bickerton because Trinity Sunday is a particularly special day for everyone at Holy Trinity, being the patronal feast day of the church.

The Collect for Trinity Sunday

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

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end

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?

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

¹⁴ 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?

¹⁵ 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.

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

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

²⁷ 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’?

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ 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.



2 Corinthians 13:11-end

¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.



Matthew 28:16-20

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

Sermon for Trinity Sunday from the Rector

I am a fan of E. M. Forster and in one of his novels there is a marvellous scene rather early on when the two principal characters are with a third, punting in Cambridge. They get round to the topic of Christian doctrine and one of them starts singing the opening words of the hymn, “Three in one and one in three” until the others shut him up!

God as Father. The image is fine if ones understanding of Fatherhood is a good and beneficial one. It’s difficult if ones only experience is of a tyrant and a bully or equally difficult if ones only image is of a seemingly detached person. My experience was of a wonderful earthly Father and I have a photograph of him holding me as an infant of 1 year old. I treasure that and see in his deep care and love that of the God I worship and adore and into whose likeness as revealed in Jesus that I seek to grow.

The Jesus model seen in his loving, trusting and seeking his Father’s blessing points us to that same relationship with our heavenly Father through his Son Jesus Christ. God as Father created in love. We live in his world and he makes us the stewards of it. We might speak of God as Creator in terms of freedom, love, goodness, eternity, power, presence, beauty, glory, simplicity, self-communication and so on. Anselm of Canterbury’s description of God, as, and I quote, “That than which no greater can be conceived” puts into words what we may feel when grappling with our earthbound minds for a way of speaking of that which is beyond our describing.

God as Son is the one that we can more readily relate to in that we read of Jesus and can understand him in all his humanity. It is in his ministry that we see an outpouring of the love of God in the ministry that sought to unite and heal and restore brokenness. The Son needed the Father and so it was at the beginning of ministry that Jesus had his own special God moment in his baptism by John in the Jordon and time and time again he stepped aside from the activity of daily life to seek the Father will and at the very end as Jesus approached Jerusalem

and death there was another special moment on The Mount of Transfiguration that gave him the confidence to step forward to The Cross and there on the Cross he knew that the Father was with him as he said “Father into the hands I commend my spirit”. Real depth in that relationship that we should seek to mirror in our spiritual journey.

Last Sunday we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit and thought of the birthday of the church as we celebrated the first disciples being changed into a world converting force by the sheer power of the spirit. As they met in the shelter of the upper room and were transformed and had a new confidence which would enable them to adventure boldly in often dangerous and difficult circumstances. That same power is given us today. The spirit empowers, yet convicts, it comforts and strengthens, it challenges and disturbs our complacency, it’s the force that came with such power that the disciples could only describe it as that of a mighty wind and its heat like tongues of flame dancing on their heads.

The Trinity is a most dynamic relationship. The Unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This must be the model for all our relationships.

On Trinity Sunday, this leads us to worship and adore remembering that worship is about the offering of all our life in His service. Let us pray using the closing words of the Prayer Book Collect “We beseech thee, that thou wouldst keep us steadfast in this faith” that we grow daily into His likeness and live and work to His praise and glory.

May God the Holy Trinity be with us all.

Ian.

***With greetings to you all from
The Rector and Revd Helen***

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Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version.