

Teddington Circuit Worship at Home Sunday 7th June 2020 – Trinity Sunday

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you. With thanks to Vicci Davidson, John Turner, Joyce Pegg and the Connexional team for their contributions.

A call to worship for Trinity Sunday

Today is Trinity Sunday
Today we grapple with thoughts of God,
One and yet three, three and yet one.
And tomorrow, God will still be God,
Whether we have understood him or not.

Today is Trinity Sunday.
Today we try to understand how
Father, Son and Holy Spirit might be one:
One in heaven, one on earth, one in our hearts.
And tomorrow, God will still be God,
Whether we have understood him or not.

God the Father, loving his Creation,
God the Son, dying for us on a cross,
God the Holy Spirit, filling us with joy and peace,
Faith and hope,
And love.

Today is Trinity Sunday
And tomorrow, God will still be God,
Whether we have understood him or not.

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy (StF 11)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwuDSw-9cUQ

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!

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 wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

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.

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 (1783-1826) (alt.)
Based on Revelation 4:8-11*

Or enjoy this wonderful Jamaican Gospel version from the Grace Thrillers:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=npCYDBfYD1U

Let us pray together

Eternal God,
We worship you, creator and sustainer of the
universe, and we praise you for the gifts of life, health
and strength.
Lord Jesus,
We worship you, Saviour and Lord of the world, and
we praise you that you have found us, washed us,
forgiven us and given us a place in your church.
Holy Spirit,
We worship you, sanctifier of the people of God, and
we praise you that you have renewed us and blessed
us with your gifts. Amen.

*Prayer by Revd. Aian Ferguson from the Methodist
Prayer Handbook 2014-15 p4*

A prayer

Amen

Today's Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah
40.12-17,27-31

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 28.16-20

Time to Reflect

How do you explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to a child? The answer of course is that you don't – there's no need!

Of course, it's correct that the word 'Trinity' can't be found in the Bible. That's because it is a *summary* of

the whole of Scripture. It's about trying to capture in a simple way the mystery and awe of passages like our Isaiah reading today.

How do you imagine God? I'm sure it varies widely according to context. God reveals something of what God is like through Scripture, through Jesus, through God's Spirit in us. God reveals the God-self to the world through the church; through people like you and me. We even (especially?) see something of what God is like through the eyes of a child.

In your baptism, you were baptised as Jesus commanded, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. You didn't need to hold a master's degree in Systematic Theology to understand that. As you grew up, you simply needed to know that this mysterious God is love, that you are loved, and that God loves us all in many ways, especially through the witness of the church – the body of Christ on earth. Just love – with no strings attached.

It's so easy, a child could get it.

Take a time to sit quietly

A Second Reflection on 2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Final words

I expect you know someone who likes to have the last word, whatever subject is being discussed. The person who needs their point to be the clincher, the final word, - the one which is remembered. Preachers often round up sermons with a phrase, the last words, which we hope will be remembered as food for thought or encouragement throughout the week.

In recent weeks, final words have become a bit of a touchy subject as sadly, many folk have been unable to express their feelings or say their farewells in person to loved ones in care homes and hospitals. The reading of messages, words and support by carers has been a valued substitute.

This week's news stream has moved on from Covid-19 to the final words of George Floyd. "I can't breathe" has been taken up as a cry, binding communities together as they protest about police brutality against black Americans across the US. The cry of these last words has gained support, drawing people together across the world.

Paul had been thinking long and hard about this church in Corinth which has been giving him grief. He has visited, and followed up with several letters to them, to be read aloud and shared with the

community. He writes in self-defence with rebukes, appeals and exhortations. His farewell, his final words are not bitter reproach but are words to pull the church together, to bind them together. They are words of reconciliation and hope, of encouragement and blessing.

Paul's final words to the Corinthians are an all embracing, threefold prayer, encompassing all the ways we encounter God. Each encounter reveals a different quality; each encounter evokes a different response in us. Overlay these facets and we find a bigger picture of God.

We see God as a great giver, a generous giver providing all we need through creation and giving us wonderful unconditional love, no matter who we are or what we've done, patiently waiting for our response to love in return. Reflecting on Jesus as our Lord and Saviour points us to a life in community where we see the reality of God, through living, sharing and loving-kindness as the pattern for our lives. By Jesus grace, we find rescue and forgiveness, and as we respond, our lives are refreshed and renewed.

We are fortunate to live in an interconnected age where we needn't wait for the post to communicate, or even be physically present, although some of us may have a weak signal. But together we are a community drawn to live and serve in fellowship by the Holy Spirit, uniting us with one another and with God. This makes us church.

These last words of Paul to the Corinthians speak to the heart of our worship and belief; they have become a prayer as memorable as the Lord's Prayer, a well-used prayer, taken up by church and congregation as a blessing. They are the final words at the end of many of our meetings and services, words which bind us together.

Just as Jesus' final words assure the disciples "I am with you always, to the end of the age", this prayer – the grace - holds that same reassurance of God with us as we go out into the world.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

The love of God

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen

A time of prayer

To those who struggle with relationships and friends, loving God. **You offer life.**

To those who believe that no one cares, loving God.

You offer life.

To those who are stressed and those who are depressed, loving God. **You offer life.**

To those who are bullied and feel weighed down, loving God. **You offer life.**

Life giving God, make us pointers to you through what we say and what we do, for Jesus' sake.

The Circuit Prayer Diary invites us to pray for Teddington church and their Fellowship Group.

In our prayers for the world we are asked to pray for Mauritius – pray for wisdom and discernment for Christians on this island where there are many religious and ethnic groups. Some modest growth, but also opposition from the Hindu based government.

We also remember at this time.....(please add your private prayers for those in your thoughts)

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. Amen.*

Hymn: Listen to StF 15:

The Splendour Of The King

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBD18rsVJHk

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

The splendour of the King,
clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice,
let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice,

and trembles at his voice.

How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.

And age to age he stands,
and time is in his hands;
beginning and the end,
beginning and the end.
The Godhead, Three in One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.

Name above all names,
worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing:
how great is our God.
Name above all names,
worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing:

how great is our God.
How great is our God, sing with me,
how great is our God, and all will see
how great, how great is our God.

Chris Tomlin (b. 1972), Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves

A prayer of blessing based on Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit; and the Blessing of God, the Holy Three-in-One, be with you, and all those whom you love, and all those who love you, today and always. Amen.

Original Materials by Revd. Stephen Froggatt