

## Reflection for Trinity Sunday [Cont.]

The first Person is more than simply “creator” and the second exceeds the title “liberator”. While it’s appropriate to differentiate the distinctive roles of the three persons of the Trinity, they suggested, the actions of the Trinity in the economy of salvation are undivided. God has an internal history as well as interacting with our history. God is both like and unlike God’s creation, just as each person of God is both like and unlike the others.

These concerns are worth considering; indeed, “Creator, Liberator, Sustainer” doesn’t contain an inbuilt notion of family relationship, or the sense that God is three persons and not just three modes of appearance. However, on this Trinity Sunday, it’s worth considering that the alternative baptismal formula might also be said to re-awaken us to characteristics of God which have been lost through our over-familiarity with the designations “Father, Son and Holy Spirit”. What might reflecting on God as creator, liberator and sustainer tell us about God that “Father, Son, Spirit” doesn’t?

We must continually reflect anew on what we think we know of God, what we are so used to hearing of God, in order to let God speak to us from other, more uncertain places. That’s especially important at a time when our normal ways of being a church and community are so disrupted and we are all challenged to think again about what we’ve so often taken for granted.

**Susannah Cornwall**

Even if you cannot join the service by telephone or video on Sunday, it would be good to try to say our prayers in some form **at 10.30** that morning, and to be intentionally holding each other up to God, and praying for the wider community of St Thomas.

**NEXT SUNDAY 14th June 2020 TRINITY 1**

**SERVICES** Public worship suspended



### READINGS

OT Exodus 19:2-8a

NT Romans 5:1-8

GOSPEL Matthew 9:35-10:23

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 7th June 2020**

## Trinity Sunday

We have a new **worship sheet** for today and onwards into Ordinary (Green) time, the long sequences of Trinity Sundays, though we might all want to acknowledge that this is hardly ordinary time at all—perhaps we should call it Extraordinary Time or Pandemic Time. The telephone numbers are the same: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196, bearing in mind that it’s worth trying a second one if the first isn’t very good. **The meeting number is 846 4638 6622 and the access code/password 425499.** These should now remain the same until the end of July.

**Fun & Fundraising** One of the activities which families have done together to be creative and keep children (and themselves) interested is **cooking**. Do we have a favourite recipe to share—stuff we have perhaps only leant to cook recently, or improved on? Mine would be butterfly cakes. Could we share these? And perhaps make a book to sell?

*Fr David*



## Collect

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?

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

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?

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.

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

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

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’?  
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.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
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

Finally, 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. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The 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. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

## Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## NOTICES

**The Church of England’s Daily Hope** phone line offers hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hrs a day whilst churches are closed. It is particularly aimed at those who are unable to join online services.



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**Pat Mounce and her family** would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this very sad time. We shall be having a celebration service for Robert at a later date.

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## Reflection for Trinity Sunday

Back in 2008, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith pronounced that children who’d been baptized in certain Roman Catholic churches over the last decade should be baptized again. Why? Because the formula that had been used at their baptisms – “I baptize you in the name of the Creator, the Liberator, and the Sustainer” – had been deemed non-Trinitarian and thus invalid.

Some cardinals argued that the formula blurred the distinctions among the three persons of the Trinity who are all involved together in the divine actions of creation, liberation and sustaining. One of the shortcomings of the alternative formula, they said, is that it reduces the three persons of the Trinity to their functions. If God is a personal and relational deity, then each person of the Trinity exceeds any single designation. **[Cont.]**