

Reflection for Trinity Sunday

Trinity is a season which does not have a great following in secular society, perhaps because it has no association with a bank holiday! It is an important season however as we consider Father Son and Holy Spirit (words which are constantly used at the conclusion of our services and prayers).

On earth we cannot see God the Father, so he sent his son Jesus to show us how God felt towards his children and his compassion for disadvantaged people.

Jesus also shows God's mercy when he speaks forgiveness to sinners.

Finally, we can only display gifts of loving, caring and forgiving if we are continually being filled with the person of God in the Holy Spirit.

Three divine realities: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE TRINITY

John White



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 11.04.21 until the end of June

Meeting ID: 843 1587 4178

Passcode: 180903

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 06.06.2021 Trinity Sunday

SERVICES 10.30am by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



OT Genesis 3: 8-15
NT 2 Corinthians 4: 13-16 5: 1
GOSPEL Mark 3: 20-35

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 30th May 2021

Trinity Sunday

10.30am by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

Blessings and greetings on this great feast day. Words from a favourite hymn of mine for Trinity Sunday, by **John Henry Newman**:

Firmly I believe and truly / God is Three and God is One / And I next acknowledge duly / Manhood taken by the Son.

Let's hope we can sing again together very soon!

It's the feast day of **St Justin** on 1st June. He was martyred about 165, and having converted from paganism, left two pieces of writing which we still have, the *Apologies* and the *Dialogue*. We continue to pray for all those who suffer for their faith, and ask Justin's intercession for them and for us.

Thank you for **your suggestions** about how we move forward out of this present time and into something resembling the past, but taking account of our recent experiences, and honouring our hopes for the future. Please keep them coming—by email, post, telephone, carrier pigeon ...

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 6: 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Romans 8: 12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry,

'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him'.

Post Communion

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

Knit and Natter Update for June 2021

For the next 5 weeks, to Thursday 17th June, we shall be following the pattern of Sunday services—one on Zoom and one in person. Zoom K & N will continue from 11.15am to 11.55am, thanks to Vanessa. At 19 Maple Road we shall meet in person from 10.30 to 12 noon for tea, coffee and chat. We shall review our meeting pattern again after 21st June. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Church Hall. As from **8th June** the collecting point will be in the Choir Vestry. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Andrew Withers.

Volunteers required. The rota for cleaning the St Thomas Chapel in the Church is being reinstated. If you are interested in helping with this important task, please ring Jenny Thomas on 01392 213207 for details.

Advance Notice Young at Hearts will start on June 23rd with a cream tea and a good 'ole natter. The 3 Musketeers are looking forward to seeing all our old family.

