



Connection

Sunday 30th May 2021
Trinity Sunday



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

Reading: Romans 8: 12-17

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.

Reading: John 3:1-17

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 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

Reflection



This week’s reflection is by Stephen Edwards, Residentiary Canon at Worcester Cathedral. You can listen to the podcast at:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts>

Like many people who are asked to give an address on Trinity Sunday my heart sank when I thought about what I might say about one of the most complicated aspects of our Christian faith. Complicated and yet absolutely essential. It’s odd really that something which I almost take for granted for 364 days of the year looms so heavily in front of me when I sit down and try to work out clearly, concisely, and effectively what I would like to say about the Trinity. I have plenty of options to choose from: I could turn to the classic Shamrock leaf, or to the dubious but quite memorable ice, water, steam comparison. Or I could reach for some classic theological textbooks, listen to podcasts from famous preachers, or struggle for hours to say in 5 minutes what centuries of Christians before us have written book after book to explain the inexplicable.

Of course I could simply take the line that the Trinity is inexplicable – a mystery – and leave it at that. But I don’t think I could get away with saying ‘it’s a mystery beyond our understanding’ and so just

believe and get on with believing. Or can I? Because I think that 'the mystery' is why the Trinity makes sense. Most of us are naturally curious – we analyse, we pull apart, we google, we spend a lot of our time trying to make sense of the world around us: the news, our relationships, families, work, and how and why things are as they are. It can be exhausting. How many of us lie awake in the night running through, and re-running, clips of the past day in our head, anxiously pouring over details and doing what we can to make sense of stuff.

It's actually a blessing that the Trinity is one thing we do not need to worry about. There is a lot to be gained from the discussions and questions it might raise for us, but ultimately, we will not get at complete answers and we simply have to let go of the desperation of knowing everything, and just relax, rest, and dwell in the mystery that God is three and God is one. That we can fall back into the everlasting arms and let God be. The Church gives us a gift on Trinity Sunday to stop worrying, stop trying to be God, and simply let God be God. Because God knows that once we think we have fully boxed God into a nice, neat, defined, and perfect package in our brains, then we have not arrived at the answer, but we have just created our own version of God. And the chances are that your God will be too small.

We only need to know a few things about the Trinity. Firstly that God is love: the inter-relationship between the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit, is one of endless, boundless and ever-giving love. The divine source of love which overflows in to our lives. God is love, and those who live in love, live in God.

Secondly the Trinity teaches us that God is more than we can ever imagine. This should not scare us or overawe us. It is actually an invitation to let go of our cares and worries, our anxieties and our puzzling, and put our trust in the God who creates us, redeems all, and sanctifies all. There is nothing beyond God's knowing or power, no place out of God's presence, no life unloved by God, no time beyond God's presence. God is in all and through all.

Give yourself a break. Trinity Sunday is a gift to let go, fall back in love into the divine presence, and bathe in his glory and majesty, might and love.

Requests for Prayers



We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers: Roy and Margaret Putnam, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty, Yvonne Seward, Andy Caddell, Pat Farey, Gayle Richards, Laurence Alexander and Jill Chapman.

We continue to pray for: Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

We pray for those who are in residential care: Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton and Rita Sheppy.

We pray for those who have died everywhere: For Tim Druce and for those who we know and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Church Services

The church services this week will be at:



9.00am Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton Reverend Catherine Lack

10.30am St John the Baptist, Beckford Reverend Allison Davies

June Services 2021

Date	Church	Time	Minister
6 th June	St Mary's Elmley Castle	10.30am	Canon Roger Spiller
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
13 th June	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.30am	Bishop Martin Gorick
	St Giles, Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
20 th June	St Peter's Chapelry, Besford	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Michael's, Great Comberton	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones
27 th June	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	St Margaret's, Alstone	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies

News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group