

Dear Friends

Today is Trinity Sunday, when we focus on the God whom we worship as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The weather forecast indicates that we are fine to go ahead with the plan to worship outside this morning, in Kingsbury Churchyard at 11am. Please continue to observe social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

The video worship for Trinity Sunday was filmed at Merevale. This will be the last of our regular weekly video offerings of worship, and also the last of these weekly emails, certainly for the time being. I hope that you have found them helpful, especially during the period when the church buildings were closed. The time however does now seem right to bring them to a close as we concentrate on the increased opportunities to meet in person. However, we shall be continuing with the Tuesday evening services of Night Prayer on facebook and on zoom, and we shall produce special services on video from time to time to celebrate particular festivals and times in the church's year. Do keep following the church's facebook page and checking the website for updates.

•<https://youtu.be/1Md8unY4qvA>



Trinity Sunday 2021

A Service for Trinity Sunday from te Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Parishes. The service was filmed at the Church of Our Lady, Merevale.
[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/1Md8unY4qvA)

Attached is the newsletter and text of my sermon for today. You will see in the newsletter a short note about the "Ecclesiastical Movement for Good"; this is a scheme run by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, giving an opportunity to win grants of £1000 for a selected church or charity, by clicking on a link on their website and making a nomination. It's a bit like buying a free lottery ticket, and any individual is allowed to enter once. There is nothing to lose, and so we are suggesting that if you are willing to do so you nominate the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Churches. The more people who nominate us, the more chance we have of gaining much needed money for church funds, which as you can imagine are severely depleted after a year without most of our usual services and events. Rev Carole has helpfully created the following easy link. If you don't trust links on emails, you can enter directly through the Ecclesiastical Insurance website.

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmovementforgood.com%2Findex.php%3Fcname%3DKingsbury%2520%26%2520Baxterley%2520Group%2520of%2520Parish%2520Churches%26ct%3Dchurch&data=04%7C01%7C%7C93ca8749d1de4068b2d408d92144008a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637577398208803528%7CUnknown%2F>

[7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dZ53uy9IRGWErx%2FPk%2BwNKQNhC9RIImKrKFGGe2Ar5wTZw%3D&reserved=0](https://www.facebook.com/7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dZ53uy9IRGWErx%2FPk%2BwNKQNhC9RIImKrKFGGe2Ar5wTZw%3D&reserved=0)

Although I will no longer be sending out an email every week, do please continue to get in touch with me. I am pleased to say that I am now in a much better position to visit people in person, so if you would like a chat do phone me, and we can talk on the telephone or arrange a time to come and see you face to face if you would like. I have had both my vaccines!

With my continued prayers and best wishes

John

Revd Dr John White

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Trinity Sunday Sermon 2021

Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17

Most of the festivals and other important days in the Christian calendar are closely tied to a story; a story from the Bible, usually a story about Jesus. So Christmas: the story of his birth at Bethlehem. Epiphany: the story of the wise men travelling from the east with their gifts, guided by a star. Palm Sunday: the story of Jesus, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Good Friday: the story of his death on the cross. Easter Day: the story of his rising again and encounters with the disciples. Then Ascension Day, and the story Luke tells of the risen Jesus being taken up into the clouds, to sit at God's right hand. And last week, the Feast of Pentecost, when we heard the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the gathered disciples. And even where there is a theological doctrine that is associated with that festival, such as the incarnation or the atonement, in each case it is the story that comes first and is remembered. And rightly so; for most people, stories resonate and make sense, when abstract ideas and concepts may go over our heads or leave us cold.

For most of the significant days in the Christian year, the story comes first. But today, Trinity Sunday, it feels different. Here, as the name of the day suggests, the focus is not on an event but a belief. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; three persons in one God, and hence the word 'Trinity', bringing together "tri" for three, and "unity" for one. And of course we can tie ourselves up in knots, trying to figure out how that works. How can one plus one plus one still equal one? And if you are hoping for an explanation of the doctrine of the Trinity in today's sermon, then I'm afraid I'm going to leave you disappointed. Some things are beyond my paygrade.

Instead, I want to think about the Trinity in terms of story. Because the observation with which I began this reflection, that other festivals focus on stories whereas Trinity Sunday is all about an

idea, is only part of the truth. The other way of looking at it is that, whereas Christmas and Easter and Ascension Day and so on each focus on a single part of the story of Jesus, on Trinity Sunday we think about the whole, the big picture, the entire story, from before the beginning of time to the final fulfilment of all God's purposes. Speaking of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is not an abstract idea, or a neat formula to be explained with shamrocks or maths or anything else; it is a way of distilling the whole story of God's dealings with the world, from the very beginning to its very end. The Trinity is truly the greatest story ever told.

It is a story that is expressed in an affirmation of faith, that we sometimes use in our services, and especially at baptism, one which begins by asking "Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?" The Trinity tells us of God as the one by whom and through whom and in whom the whole world has been made. It is not just that the Father is the creator; John's Gospel tells us that Jesus, the Son of God is also the Word of God, who spoke all things into being. The Book of Genesis tells of the Spirit of God, hovering over the waters and breathing life into all creation. The story of creation is not telling us about when or how the world was made, but by whom. As such, the Christian story tells a very different tale from the atheistic narrative, where it all just happened, by accident not design, a view of the Big Bang rather brilliantly summarised and spoofed by Terry Pratchett, who wrote the line, "In the beginning there was nothing, which exploded." God as Trinity tells the story of a world that was made, for a reason and with a purpose. It tells of a world that is good, that is infused with the glory of God, however much things may then have gone wrong. Our responsibility for creation, and for the environment, is rooted in that story of God, whose world this is.

In this story, as in all great stories, not everything runs smoothly. Humanity fails to embrace God's purposes for the world. Even God's own people fail to embrace their calling with faithfulness and trust. And so the central act of the drama is the story of redemption. The second question asked of candidates for baptism: "Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?". The parts of the story of Jesus that we recall at Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Day are episodes within this wider story of God's plan for the redemption of the world. In the words from today's Gospel reading, "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". The story of the Trinity is the story of humanity and creation, rescued and set free from the forces that bind and despoil, by God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And so, thirdly, we ask, "Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?" Rescued from sin and death, we are brought into new life, the life of the risen Christ, the life of God's eternal kingdom. The Holy Spirit is pictured as God's breath of life within us, renewing us, restoring us, empowering us to live and work to God's glory; but once again that work is not the work of the Spirit alone, but of God as Trinity. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are together Creator, Redeemer and Life-giver. And so the final affirmation: "This is the faith of the Church. This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Our task on Trinity Sunday is not to try to understand and to explain a concept about God, who will always surpass and transcend our comprehension. It is to inhabit this story, the greatest story ever told, of the God who has revealed himself as our Creator, Redeemer and Life-giver, the God whom we worship as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To God be the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Keep Singing from Sarah

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are well.

We are all enjoying the sunshine here finally and the girls are very happy to have broken up for half term although they seem to have a packed schedule of activities planned

With things getting busy again and some sort of "normality" returning it seems like a good time to bring these weekly emails to a close so please find below a final weekly selection of music to accompany Trinity Sunday . Hopefully some of your favourite choices to go out on a high note (pun intended!!! ha!!)

511 O Lord, my God (How great though art) - [WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL-HOW GREAT THOU ART - YouTube](#) (my favourite Hymn!!!)

379 - Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us - [Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us - YouTube](#)

286 - Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty - [HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - YouTube](#)

695 - To God be the glory - [To God Be The Glory \(Royal Albert Hall, London\) - YouTube](#)

and a few more because I always get carried away and could never pick just 4.....

What wondrous love is this, O my soul - [What Wondrous Love - YouTube](#)

[Father, we love you - Acappella - Glorify thy name - YouTube](#)

Haleluya, pelo tsa rona (Alleluia! We sing your praises) - [Haleluya! Pelo Tsa Rona \(Arr. for Choir & Percussion\) - YouTube](#)

The Cherubic Hymn Rachmaninov - [The Cherubic Hymn- Rachmaninov - YouTube](#)

O Trinity of blessed light S. & A. Barrett - [O Trinity of blessed light plainsong - YouTube](#)

All shall be well Ogden - [All Shall Be Well - David Ogden - YouTube](#)

All Shall Be Well John Van Deusen - [All Shall Be Well - YouTube](#)

I don't think anybody could have predicted back in March 2020 just how long and how unpredictable and strange the past year and a bit would be or that we would not be able to sing together for so long!

Although we are not there yet I am hopeful that relatively soon we may be able to resume singing in Church in some way. I will be in touch with regard to this as restrictions hopefully lift and also with regard to holding some singing workshops again within the group.....just for fun!! We also have some weddings coming up later in the year who, if allowed, would like to have a choir to sing

for them. Obviously all dependent on many factors but I will message you all when there are firmer plans so please keep a look out for any information. If you would no longer like to be on this mailing list please let me know and I can take you off

Finally I wanted to thank you all for your lovely messages over the time of these email exchanges.....I have enjoyed searching for hymns and songs to share and also very much enjoyed staying in touch with you online and hearing your news when meeting in person was not possible.

We, like almost everyone else where we live, are about to go out and light the BBQ so I will say goodbye for now.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in person tomorrow at Kingsbury...where I am very happy to say we will hopefully be able to sing some trinity hymns outside

For those we are not able to see in person please know you are in our thoughts and prayers and we are sending you very best wishes.

Stay safe and well all and keep singing!
Lots of Love from
Sarah, Tom, Emily and Phoebe xxxx