

Good morning everyone

Here is the link for our worship and reflection today for Trinity Sunday, which I hope you will find helpful as we continue to worship at home.

https://youtu.be/d6X5lvCx_wI



Trinity Sunday Worship and Reflection

A short act of worship for Trinity Sunday from the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Churches

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/d6X5lvCx_wI)

I'm also attaching the words as separate documents for anyone who would find it helpful to read as well as watch.

Also, just a word about where we are in terms of re-opening church buildings. The government announced at 10pm last night (bizarre and unhelpful timing!) that from 15 June places of worship will be allowed to open for private prayer. The key words here are "allowed" and "private". It does not mean that all churches will or must re-open in this way and by that date, and acts of worship, weddings and funerals remain prohibited. I am clear that for any re-opening of the buildings there needs to be three stages at which a green light is given. First, is what is legally allowed by the government. Secondly, will then be the guidance and directions we receive from the bishops and archdeacons. But thirdly is the local decision making, where the churchwardens, PCCs and myself, determine whether it is safe and right to open, and in what ways. So, now is the time for some careful thinking and conversations about what measures we would need to put in place to enable a safe re-opening, but I think we should reckon with the realistic expectation that there will be no major changes to what we are doing for a few weeks yet. But I do want us to spend those weeks listening and planning and working towards a safe re-opening when it is right to do so. So please do speak to me or email me with any thoughts or concerns that you may have on this issue.

In the meantime, we continue to develop ways of sustaining our life of prayer, worship and mission in ways other than meeting in church. I have this week set up a "Dial a Sermon" phone line. This enables anyone to phone up a local number, at the same price as any other 01827 number, and listen to a recording of the weekly reflection. This is particularly for those in our community who are not online, and so can't watch services on facebook or receive these emails, but anybody of course is welcome to use it. The number is **01827 211 125**. Please share that number with any of your friends, family or neighbours who you think might find it useful. I am

anxious that we keep connected with as many people as possible, through as many means as possible.

Using Zoom for coffee and chat has proven worthwhile (sorry for the abrupt ending to our meeting on Thursday, when the 40 minutes allowed on the free version of zoom ran out!), and we'll continue to do that. This week that will once again be at 10.30am on Thursday, using the ID 319 891 1457, password Kings 1. There will also be Zoom compline on Wednesday 10 June at 8pm, led by Revd Carole - the ID for that is 567 717 8538, password Twigster3.

As we remember in prayer those who have died and those who are bereaved, please remember especially the following, whose funerals will be taking place over the coming days: David Legg, baby Daisy-May Newcombe, Doreen Squires, Annie Bailey and Judy Bennett.

I am very appreciative of your prayers and concern for us here in the vicarage, and so I just want to give you an update. As some of you may know, our daughter Debbie had to be taken into hospital this week, as she'd been unwell for a few days, not keeping food down and getting dehydrated. However, she is now doing well, and we're expecting that she will be discharged today and back home with us. So thank you for your prayers, and be assured of mine for you all.

With very blessing

John

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Worship for Trinity Sunday

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Acclamation

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;
ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit;
all our days. **Amen.**

Collect for Trinity Sunday

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.**

Readings

Psalm 8

Matthew 28.16-20

Reflection

A Reflection for Trinity Sunday

It has become a bit of a running joke among Christian ministers that they will do all they can to avoid preaching on Trinity Sunday. The joke stems from the idea that the doctrine of the Trinity is some unfathomably complicated set of statements in obscure and academic language, that has nothing to do with how we actually live our lives. Worse than that, there's the fear that as soon as you start to find some nice, neat picture to try and explain the Trinity you will immediately fall into one heresy or another; and the punishment for heresy, at least in times gone by, has been severe. The stakes are set high, perhaps literally. Who can blame anyone for just avoiding the whole subject?

But I actually rather like preaching on Trinity Sunday. That's not because I'm either clever enough or stupid enough to think I've got the whole thing all sussed out. It's simply because I don't accept the assumption that the Trinity is all about a doctrine that we have to believe, whether we understand it or not. For me, the Trinity is about life, and about the life we live as Christians. It is about how we relate to God, and how we relate to one another. It is about how we worship and how we pray.

So let's just take prayer, and see what Trinity Sunday has to say about how we pray.

To begin with, when we pray, we pray to the Father. In giving his disciples a pattern of how to pray, Jesus taught us to begin, "Our Father, who art in heaven...". We might be so familiar with those words that we overlook how extraordinary they are. In prayer, we come before God as children before a heavenly father, a Father who has created us and loves us and cares for us. It is through prayer above all that we experience the fatherhood of God. The maker of the universe is not a remote and impersonal force, but a loving father who knows our needs and is attentive to them and gives us the good things that we need. This is the one to whom we come in prayer.

Secondly, when we pray, we pray through Jesus the Son. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reflects on how Jesus, having become human, having resisted temptation, having died for our sins, having been raised to life and ascended to the very right hand of God in heaven, gives us the assurance that he is our advocate before the Father. In him and through him, we can pray with confidence, knowing that Jesus is the sure way into the Father's presence. We are urged, "Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4.16) It is because Jesus is both God and man that he can fulfil this role of the perfect high priest, our intermediary in heaven.

And thirdly, and finally, when we pray, we pray in the Holy Spirit. St Paul puts it wonderfully in his letter to the Romans, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." Prayer is not primarily about us finding the right words to say to God. If it were, we would always struggle. God is bigger than our words. But in prayer, God is with us and God is in us, through the Holy Spirit. If you think that you don't know how to pray – don't worry! The truth is that prayer is as much, if not more, God's work as our work. Our task is simply to be open and to let God work in us and through us.

We pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. And because the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not three separate beings, but one God, all of these aspects of prayer hold together.

So on Trinity Sunday, don't worry about whether or not you can get your head around complicated creeds. Just trust in the God who loves you, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and pray to him, through him and in him, with confidence.

Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Scripture (Revelation 4.10, 11)

The twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created.'

Closing Prayer

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.